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NMIS valedictorian Rosete values help of classmates. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Jury finds Tydingco couple guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal court jury rendered yesterday a unanimous verdict finding couple Francisco Muna Tydingco and Lili Zhang Tydingco guilty of harboring an illegal Chinese alien.

After deliberating for less than five hours yesterday, the 12 jurors found the Tydingco couple guilty of one count of harboring an alien.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The jurors found that Lili Tydingco harbored an alien for the purpose of private financial gain. The jurors also found Francisco Tydingco guilty of aiding or

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Lili Zhang Tydingco walks toward the U.S. District Court for the NMI in Garapan after she was informed that the jury reached a verdict yesterday afternoon. The jury found her and her husband, Francisco Muna Tydingco, guilty of harboring an illegal alien.

Torres says Orlando, FL shooting was 'preventable'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Reiterates call for safer gun measures in NMI

Joining President Barack Obama's call for mourning across the nation, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres ordered all U.S. and CNMI flags in the Commonwealth to fly half-staff out of respect for the victims murdered senselessly by a gunman during the wee hours of Sunday morning stateside, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Torres believes the mass shooting, which occurred in an Orlando, Florida nightclub and took the lives of 50 people, could have been prevented.

"It is unfortunate that we must join in solidarity, mourning the most recent and dramatic loss of life, during times of tragedy that are preventable," Torres said in a statement yesterday. "From all accounts, the shooter in Orlando purchased weapons legally and broke no laws up to the

See TORRES on Page 4

PTSA brings gun control issue to 9th Circuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tanapag Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association is bringing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit its opposition to the lawsuit filed by U.S. Navy veteran David J. Radich and his wife, who successfully challenged the constitutionality of the CNMI gun control law.

The Tanapag Middle School PTSA, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, has notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI of its appeal to the Ninth Circuit from the court's order denying its motion to intervene in the Radich couple's law-

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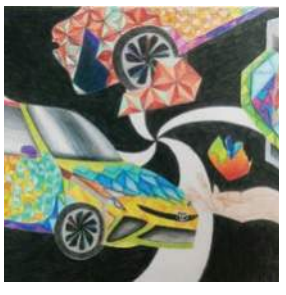
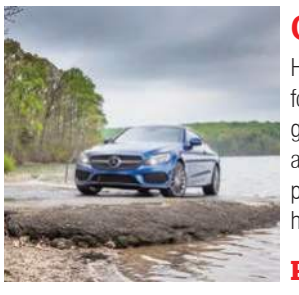
INSIDE



LOCAL
Eleven-year-old Jy Joeng Son, a 5th grade student from Oleai Elementary School, was selected as one of the world contest winners in the 10th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.
PAGE 9

NATION
When Omar Mateen finally stopped firing his AR-15, 50 people were dead and dozens more were critically wounded in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.
PAGE 16



OVERDRIVE
Have American motorists forgotten the joys of extravagance? Given the preponderance of utility vehicles and pickup trucks, it seems we have.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

'Angelika Garcia' is crowned 'Queen of the Pacific'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Super Sea Reyna Queen of the Pacific "Angelika Garcia" second right, is joined by pageant judge Helene Lizama-Manning, from left, Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy Clarice Mhae Canajero, and United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte on stage after winning the transgender pageant last Saturday night at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

JON PEREZ

In the end, "Angelika Garcia" gave the best answer that the judges wanted and was crowned the Super Sea Reyna Queen of the Pacific transgender pageant held Saturday night at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Angelika Garcia was among the five finalists chosen from the 13 candidates that vied for the crown. "Maxim Ilustre," "Pia Wurtzbach," "Chris Manuel," and "Bangs Garcia" joined her in the final five.

The five finalists were asked the same question—agreed on by judges Helene Lizama Manning, Leslie B. Camacho, *Marianas Variety* editor Zaldy Dandan, reigning Miss Marianas Jian Joyner, and former *Saipan Tribune* reporter Jayson Camacho.

The final question is how would you describe nature to a blind child.

"It is the same like the love of a mother, it is undefinable. You can't describe it but only feel it," said Angelika Garcia that drew wild cheers from the packed crowd at the Royal Taga Hall.

Bangs Garcia, Manuel, Wurtzbach, and Illustre were the first to fourth runners-up, respectively.

Bangs Garcia had some sort of consolation after claiming three of the six special awards. She won the best in evening gown and swimsuit awards, and was Miss Photogenic.

Wurtzbach earned the best in nature costume while "A.J. Lee" was named Miss Charity for helping the organizers and having the most funds raised. "Serena Temple" was given the Spirit Award.

The pageant was held to create environmental awareness with the candidates taking the stage wearing their costumes made up of recycled materials.

In the pre-final event, the candidates were asked to choose a photo and describe why it was their particular choice. Most of their answers centered in helping preserve the environment for future generations.

The pageant was a fund-raising event where proceeds would go the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers. Pageant coordinator Ernie Molina said the money could be used to buy additional wheelchairs or other equipment needed.

The candidates also gave free haircut and makeover to *man'amko*s last month and helped with a beach cleanup and beautification of the surrounding area of Filcom Pavilion in Susupe as part of their community service.

CPA port managers now exempted from salary cap

A bill to exempt local air and seaport managers from salary caps was signed into law yesterday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law Senate Bill 19-41, as amended, which exempts managers of the Commonwealth Ports Authority from the salary limitations imposed by the Compensation Adjustment Act.

The bill is now Public Law 19-48, and exempts the managers from the cap so they can receive more salaries of more than $50,000 per year.

The bill was offered by then Senate president and now Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Sens. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), and Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) in June 2015.

It found that managers of CPA were "underpaid" considering their duties and responsibilities to manage the air and seaports in the CNMI.

It said that these managers "operate complex 24-hour port facilities" that are heavily regulations by the federal government agencies.

The bill said that CPA managers currently earn salaries that are the same as "top paid civil service managers with less duties and responsibilities." ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

IN WAKE OF DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN US HISTORY:

FBI assures there is no known related threat to CNMI, Guam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday assured the public that in the wake of the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, there is no known related threat to any area covered by the FBI Honolulu Division, including the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa.

"The perpetrator has no known association with our island communities," according to FBI Honolulu Division supervisory special agent Matthew McDonald.

McDonald said the Honolulu FBI is monitoring the situation closely to ensure the public's safety and stands ready to provide appropriate investigative assistance to the mainland communities directly impacted by this tragic event.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry if there are victims who are from the CNMI or Guam, the FBI spokesman said he has no detailed information on any of the casualties.

"We will let you know if any information impacting, or related to, Guam or Saipan becomes available," McDonald said in an email.

A man armed with an assault rifle reportedly went on a shooting rampage, killing 50 people and wounding 53 others, during a gay pride celebration at a nightclub in Orlando on Sunday in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. President Barack Obama denounced the shooting as an act of terror and hate.

Torres vetoes bill to establish bingo board

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday vetoed a bill to establish a Saipan Bingo Board that came with restrictions on bingo game operations, new criminal offenses and penalties against violators.

Torres said the bill, House Local Bill 19-55, contained numerous significant constitutional deficiencies, in his veto message yesterday.

Torres said that legislative delegations may not create local municipal agencies without the approval of voters in their respective senatorial districts, per the Commonwealth Constitution, and that the Saipan Bingo Board fell within this category of local agency that required such direct approval.

The bill's criminal penalties, Torres also said, fall outside the lawmaking authority of legislative delegations. Citing previous law, delegations are only responsible to regulate bingo games by controlling the conduct of bingo games in their districts.

This does not encompass the criminalization of conduct by either fine or imprisonment, Torres said. It also does not include directing the Department of Public Safety to enforce the local criminal statute.

Another "fatal flaw," Torres said, was the absence of language that the funds collected would be used exclusively for the island of Saipan.

The local bill only provides that the funds be expended in the Third Senatorial District, he said.

"Lastly, the bill would sidestep the governor's approval for the use of funds by allowing the delegation to approve expenditures through the passage of a mere local resolution," Torres said.

"The Local Law Act of 1983, as amended, requires the appropriation of funds through the enactment of a local appropriation bill, not a local resolution.'

Tinian Mayor's Office worker allegedly attacked man for texting his girlfriend

A community worker at the Tinian Mayor's Office was arrested on Friday on allegations that he threatened to kill a man for texting his girlfriend, blocked his car with his truck, and tried to bump him to crash his car on Tinian.

Marcus Genam Untalan, 52, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, assault, and criminal mischief.

Police said the victim denied texting Untalan's girlfriend because he does not know how to text and never used his cell phone for a year now.

The victim said he was traumatized and lost appetite after the incident.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained the $25,000 cash bail that the court imposed in issuing the arrest warrant.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 22 at 9am. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Untalan. Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government.

After the hearing, Meyer was seen asking a question to Untalan, but the defendant kept on talking on different matters.

Police Detective Shawn Lee SN. Borja disclosed that last June 3 a police officer tried to interview Untalan, but the defendant stated that the officers are not going to arrest him, then he jumped toward the back of his house and into the jungle area.

Borja stated in his report that the investigation began when a ports police officer called the Department of Public Safety for assistance last May 27 at 12:53pm after the victim drove to the airport and asked for help.

Borja said the victim later that day told police how Untalan attacked him.

Officers then tried to locate Untalan, but could not find him.

Borja said during an interview last June 3, the victim alleged that Untalan attempted to kill him thrice.

The detective said according to the victim, Untalan came to his house last May 27, looking for him.

When somebody told that the victim was not there, Untalan then made a threat he would kill the victim for texting his girlfriend.

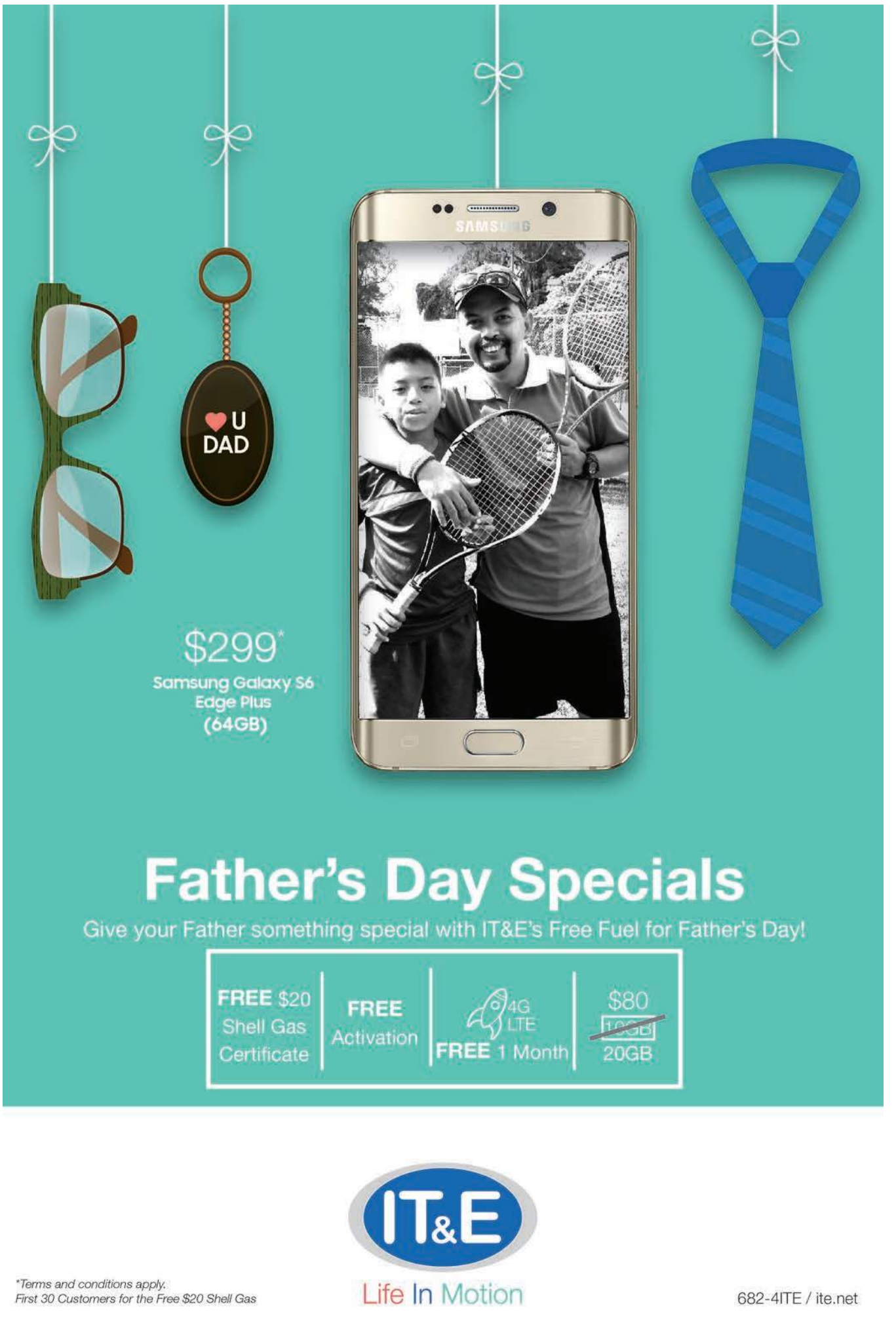
The victim said that later that day, while he was driving his car, Untalan blocked his vehicle with his pickup truck.

Untalan, who appeared "not in his right mind" and his teeth grinding, then allegedly threatened he would kill him so he immediately drove off.

Untalan allegedly punched the side of the victim's car and chased him with his truck.

The victim said he was already driving 85 miles per hour, but Untalan still caught up and drove next to his car.

The victim said Untalan tried thrice to hit his car with his truck, prompting him to drive off the road to avoid crashing. He said he somehow managed to get away and drove to the airport, where he sought police's help. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Torres vetoes bill to revamp port concession program

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill to allow the Commonwealth Ports Authority to offer concessions to different bidders at different ports and allow them to negotiate with existing concessionaries without conducting a public search for a new one was vetoed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday.

The governor, in his veto message, said the bill would replace the existing CPA concession process with "a new ostensibly," or purportedly, "simplified process" but flagged provisions that were deemed 'unconstitutional.'

Torres said he vetoed the bill because of "numerous legal deficiencies' and said that any future bill that sought to amend the current concession law must take into account the concerns he raises in the veto letter.

One concern—with House Bill 19-123—were on provisions that would limit future legislatures from amending the business gross revenue tax and business license fee the bill's proposed provisions.

Implicit in the lawmaking power of a legislature is the principle that one legislature cannot enact law that prevents future legislature from exercising its lawmaking power.

"A statute may not be enacted that irrevocably binds successor legislatures," Torres wrote. He was flagging a provision, among others, that would have assessed a tax of 4 percent on gross sales and bind this tax from being increased during the term of the concession agreement.

Torres

Torres also said the bill was not clear on the procedures for solicitation of offers, bids, or proposals either via auction, bid or request for proposal, saying the bill was insufficient in this description.

"I am especially concerned with absence of guidance on CPA's determination of what is in the 'best interest of the Commonwealth' and the use of its waiver authority, Torres said, referring to a part of the bill which states that CPA's decision making would be based on the best interests of the Commonwealth. But Torres said this did not list the relevant factors, circumstances, or considerations that CPA would take into account in making that determination.

The bill also granted CPA the 'sole discretion" to waive "all taxes and business license and permit fees and requirements on the holder of a concession"—save for the concession and licenses and BGRT.

On this, Torres said the bill did not set "standards" for which CPA would make this decision.

"This is a major change from existing law," Torres wrote.

He said waivers may be made only with duty-free retail concessions that have prepaid the concession fee. And that they are not given to other concessionaires, even those who sell food and drinks for on-site consumption or rent vehicles for use within the CNMI.

Lack of regulatory guidance

Torres said laws like the vetoed bill would typically contain mandates to the responsibly department or agency to prescribe rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill, but the bill does mandate CPA or the Finance Dept. do so for the concession program.

He said although CPA and Finance are given the discretion to promulgate regulations to implement "existing" concession laws, neither agency has any such regulations currently in effect.

Torres said that if the Legislature had intended that the two agencies rely on their respective procurement, it would have been inadequate. "Procurement regulations do not apply to concession programs as the procurement regulations are limited to the purchase of goods, services of construction, he said. "Rather than purchase, concessions 'sell' privileges to conduct business on government property. Thus, instead of awarding a concession to the lowest bidder/offeror/proposer/, the award is made to the highest bidder/offeror/proposer."

"An amending bill must state unequivocally that no solicitation of concession offers, bids or proposals would be made until and unless CPA and the Department of Finance have the necessary rules and regulations in place," Torres went on to say. "It would be ill-advised to proceed with approving this bill given the absence of legally sufficient provisions to guide CPA in its concession program.

PTSA

From Page 1

suit and from the court's final judgment in the couple's case.

The PTSA wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse the federal court's order that denied its motion to intervene into the Radich couple's lawsuit.

The PTSA also seeks an order from the Ninth Circuit to reverse the federal court's ruling that favored the Radich couple's lawsuit.

Citing that there is no longer anything to appeal, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona last May 27 denied the PTSA's motion to intervene.

Manglona said when the Commonwealth Legislature repealed the law at the heart of the Radich couple's lawsuit, it rendered moot the case or controversy subject to judicial decision, and essentially made the scope of CNMI gun control a political matter.

"Because the provisions challenged in this lawsuit no longer exist, and the Radiches no longer have anything to enjoin, PTSA no longer has a case into which it can intervene," Manglona said.

In her March 28 ruling, Manglona declared unconstitutional the CNMI gun control law that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

In response, the CNMI passed Public Law 19-42, SAFE Act which removes the ban on possession of handguns and also establishes new rules for transporting and using firearms.

PTSA then filed a motion to intervene for purposes of appeal in the Radich couple's lawsuit.

PTSA president A. Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, in his declaration, said they oppose the legalization of handguns in the CNMI because these weapons add a new and dangerous threat to the students' welfare.

Horey argued that if the court's decision in the Radich couple's lawsuit is allowed to remain in force without appeal, the PTSA's ability to protect its interest in the "welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community will this be permanently impeded."

The Radiches, through counsel David G. Sigale, opposed the PTSA's motion.

Sigale asserted that, as of now, the challenged laws no longer exist because the Commonwealth passed Public Law 19-42, the SAFE Act, following Manglona's summary judgment ruling, which repealed and/or amended all the laws that the Radich couple had challenged.

JURY

From Page 1

abetting Lili Tydingco in harboring an illegal alien.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the sentencing for Nov. 4, 2016.

Manglona allowed Lili Tydingco to remain at liberty until the sentencing date.

The judge allowed the release of Francisco Tydingco subject to home detention pending the sentencing.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing, counsel for the U.S. government, said they will not oppose placing Lili Tydingco to remain at liberty pending the sentencing.

Lorfing, however, recommended that Francisco Tydingco should be detained pending sentencing due to his violations of court's pre-trial release order and that he is now a convicted felon.

Lorfing expressed concern with Francisco Tydingco's use of methamphetamine or "ice" and being the caretaker of his three young children at home.

The court revoked Francisco Tydingco's pre-trial release during the start of the trial last Tuesday for violation of court's order.

Francisco Tydingco apologized to the court and asked to be released pending sentencing because he misses his children. He also promised not to violate again the court's order and that he will stop using "ice." He admitted he is only a casual "ice" user and not addicted to it.

Referring to violations of court's pre-trial release, Manglona told Francisco Tydingco that he lied to her right in the courtroom.

"If I don't trust you, who will trust you outside of this court?" Manglona said.

Francisco Tydingco apologized and promised he will not violate her order again.

The judge stated that she has sympathy for the Tydingcos' children.

Manglona said he will authorize Francisco Tydingco's release subject to home detention. The judge ordered the increase of drug testing plus other conditions.

Manglona warned Francisco Tydingco that it will be her last straw if he will violate her order.

The trial began last Tuesday. The jurors started deliberating on Friday and resumed their deliberations yesterday at 8am. A court staff read the verdict at 1:50pm.

Assistant U.S. attorney Lorfing refused to comment about the verdict.

Attorney Steven Pixley, counsel for Francisco Tydingco, said he was surprised with the verdict.

Asked if they are going to appeal, Pixley said they will wait until the sentencing date to consider options.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Lili Tydingco, said they are not happy with the verdict and surprised.

"But we understand that the jury had a job to do and they did their job and we'll carry on. But the fight is not over. We will continue pursuing the case," Berline said.

A federal grand jury has indicted the couple for allegedly receiving money to harbor two illegal Chinese aliens, including a child they enrolled at a public school.

The indictment charged the Tydingcos with two counts of harboring an illegal alien. The prosecution, however, dismissed one count pertaining to the child's uncle after the government completed calling its witnesses during the trial.

According to Homeland Security Investigations Task Force officer Jesse Dubrall, the child's purported uncle, Rongxue Liu, stated in an interview that he paid Lili Tydingco $7,000 in exchange for helping him enter into a fake marriage and obtain a green card.

Dubrall said the parents of the child admitted that they agreed to pay Lili Tydingco between $15,000 and $20,000 to take their child to Saipan and get her a green card.

Dubrall said the Tydingcos went to China in September 2013 and returned to Saipan with the then-10-year-old Chinese girl on Sept. 26, 2013.

Liu arrived on Saipan from China on July 25, 2015, according to the prosecution.

Lorfing stated in court documents Lili Tydingco reassured the worried father of the child that his minor daughter would be in good hands because Francisco Tydingco was a former police officer who was well connected and could facilitate the green card process.

In truth, Lorfing said, Francisco Tydingco had been convicted on Saipan of attempted murder and other violent crimes and had never served as a police officer.

TORRES

From Page 1

point he senselessly took the lives of 50 people in the worst act of gun violence in our nation's history."

"This highlights the broken nature of our current system and the need for the CNMI to find ways to protect our people in this new environment, Torres said, referring to the U.S. district court for NMI's ruling last March to strike down the CNMI's ban on handguns as unconstitutional. The move triggered lawmakers and CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan to draft and for Torres to sign sweeping gun control legislation meant to curb and make difficult the possession and use firearms in the CNMI.

"This is why we have increased total spending on our Department of Public Safety in my budget submission and are looking for ways we can strengthen the safety of our people while still abiding by the constitution," Torres went on to say. "We are also closely watching cases throughout the United States regarding the extent of the Second Amendment, such as the recent Ninth Circuit ruling regarding conceal and carry prohibitions.

"Needless to say, however, this shooting is a real tragedy and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends affected by this horrific event."

In signing the proclamation to order flags at half-mast yesterday, Torres joined Obama in calling the violence as an act of "hatred and terror."

As of press time, the Associated Press was reporting that authorities were investigating whether the shooting was an act of terrorism and were probing the background of gunman, Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old American citizen from Fort Pierce, Florida, who had worked as a security guard.

The gunman's father recalled that his son recently got angry when he saw two men kissing in Miami and said that might be related to the assault.

Before the Orlando shooting, the deadliest shooting in the nation's history was the 2007 attack at Virginia Tech, where a student killed 32 people before killing himself.

Triple J supports HANMI golf tourney

Front from left, Five Star Wholesale Foods and Truckload Store general manager Jay Santos, HANMI Golf Tournament chair Paul Park, Triple J Marketing manager Iliana Pacheco, HANMI Golf Tournament Committee member Franco Santos, and Pacific Islands Club Food & Beverage director Steve Balakrishna. At back from left, Triple J Motors Saipan general manager Randy Steele and Hertz-Rent-a-Car general manager Alex Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As a major supporter of the local tourism industry, Triple J Motors Saipan is excited to provide a 2016 Mazda3 hatchback for the 15th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament as a hole-in-one prize. The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands hosts this golf tournament each year to help reach out and provide education about tourism as well as provide charity assistance to the community.

"Tourism is the backbone of our economy here on Saipan. We are happy to be involved in an event surrounding tourism education to promote our beautiful island." Randy Steele, general manager of Triple J Motors, stated.

The Mazda3 hatchback is currently on sale at Triple J Motors. This car is loaded with modern features of convenience such as push-button start, back-up camera and monitor, touch-screen media system with USB and Bluetooth, sporty aluminum-alloy wheels, loads of safety features and most importantly, it's an economical and amazingly fun car to drive. Steele confirms, "this car is the embodiment of the 'ZoomZoom' spirit that Mazda vehicles offer."

The HANMI golf tournament will be held on June 18 with approximately 144 golfers expected to participate. ***(PR)***

CDAC to dispose of 2007-2010 records

The Public School System Early Intervention Program would like to inform parents of infants and toddlers who received Early Intervention Services at the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) from 2007 through 2010, that your child's records are no longer needed by the program therefore will be destroyed in a manner that ensures all personal identifiers are removed from the record and the record is no longer personally identifiable.

The Early Intervention Program will, maintain indefinitely, a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone numbers, entry date, exit date, and eligibility information.

Records, other that the permanent information listed above will be destroyed 30 days from the date of this notice.

For any other information, please call Robin Palacios, interim coordinator, Early Intervention Program at CDAC (664-4841/4). ***(PR)***

Learn about the Battle of Saipan at AMP

On June 15, 1944, American troops arrived on Saipan's shores. That morning U.S. soldiers landed on western beaches to gain control of the island from the Japanese as part of the Battle of Saipan. If you would like to learn more, Park Ranger Podziewski will talk about that day in history from the same place where American soldiers came ashore 72 years ago. American Memorial Park invites you to join the Park at the outdoor learning center on Beach Road near the Japanese Tank adjacent from Quarter Master Road. The short presentation will begin at 9am on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

If you have any questions please call 670-234-7207, 2020, or e-mail brookenev-ittnps@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Eonzen Dela Paz. God bless you as you enter a new chapter in your life. Your mom and family members will always be there to support you.

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Mazda3 Sedan or Hatchback total price is $19,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $308.50 or $142 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $18,510.00.

Cop arrested for allegedly stealing teacher's cell phone

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested on Friday afternoon a police officer who allegedly stole a cell phone that a teacher forgot at a store in Kagman. The act was caught by the store's surveillance camera.

Police Officer Florencio Quitugua Falig, 47, assigned at the Department of Public Safety's Patrol Section, was served with an arrest warrant for theft in Kagman.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $5,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for June 20 at 9am.

Camacho appointed assistant public defender Matthew Meyer as counsel for Falig. Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government.

Camacho also found out that Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Falig last May 12 for failing to appear in court at the scheduled May 2 hearing in a small claim filed against him by Express Financial.

It is not clear why DPS did not serve the bench warrant to Falig.

With the arrest of Falig, Camacho quashed the bench warrant and ordered the officer to appear before Kim-Tenorio for the small claim yesterday at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Meyer asked the court to release Falig on his own recognizance. He cited the nature of the allegations and stated that possibly it is a simple mistake, and that Falig has been a police officer for 20 years, and has no criminal record.

Camacho then noted that Falig has prior cases that include violation of Family Protection Act, contempt of court, small claims, breach of contract, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that police investigation began last Wednesday when a police officer was making a routine check by the pavilion in Kagman 1 and a concerned citizen approached and disclosed about a police officer stealing a cell phone at Brother's Market.

The concerned citizen expressed disappointment seeing a police officer stealing a cell phone inside the store. The concerned citizen added that the owner of the phone and some of the store's customers were very upset when they saw from the surveillance camera's footage that the person who took the phone is a police officer.

Pangelinan said during their interview last Thursday, the concerned citizen disclosed that he was inside Brother's Market when a teacher came into the establishment, looking for her cell phone that she forgot.

Since the teacher could not find the cell phone, she and the store's employees then reviewed the footage of the surveillance camera. The store employee identified the person in the footage as a boating safety police officer.

Pangelinan said shown a photo lineup containing 21 photos of police officers, the employee identified Falig as the person he saw taking the cell phone on the candy box and hiding it on his left hip side.

Pangelinan said Falig used to be assigned at Boating Safety and is now a patrol officer.

Pangelinan said during her interview last Thursday, the victim said she went to Brother's Market on Wednesday at 9:30pm to buy something.

The victim said she remembers leaving her gold Samsung 12 cell phone from IT&E with gold cover on the candy box on top of the cashier's counter. After 20 minutes upon arrival at home, she realized she forgot her phone at the store so she came back, but it was no longer on the candy box.

When the victim requested to review the camera's footage, the store's employee then told her that a police officer took the phone.

Shown a photo lineup containing 21 photos of police officers, the victim identified Falig as the person she observed in the footage taking her phone.

Pangelinan said the victim was very upset because the phone contained photos of her students as well as other important information.

Pangelinan said the store employee told her that the clear footage showed that a woman pointed out the cell phone on the candy box, then Falig took it and hid it to his left hip side, while the cashier was busy using the cash register.

The employee said Falig, their regular customer, used to wear Boating Safety uniforms and drove a Boating Safety Nissan truck.

Pangelinan said during an interview, the woman who pointed the cell phone to Falig admitted that she told the officer about the phone because he was standing next to her.

The woman said Falig took the phone and stated he was going to return it.

Pangelinan said the woman recalled that last Thursday, the owner of the phone came to her house and asked about her missing phone.

Pangelinan said the woman stated that the next morning, she walked over to Falig's house and told him to return the phone because the owner was looking for her and that she doesn't like that.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to an increase in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 22.39%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has increased from $0.11283 per kWh to **$0.13809** per kWh effective **June 1, 2016.**

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates				
	Per kWh:				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
3	Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate) Per kWh -- all usage	$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 06/01/16)	$ 0.13809	$ 0.13809	$ 0.13809	$ 0.13809
Previous FAC (04/01/16 - 05/31/16)	$ 0.11283	$ 0.11283	$ 0.11283	$ 0.11283

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Fixture Charge: See below.

	FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1	Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2	Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3	LED	140	57	$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments)	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

Updated June 2016

IT&E is major sponsor of 2016 Pistang Pinoy

IT&E was a Major Sponsor of the 2016 Pistang Pinoy held at the Marianas Business Plaza this past Sunday, June 12, 2016.

IT&E contributed a substantial amount of cash and in-kind donations to assist the Filipino community organize a successful event.

"IT&E is very thankful to the Filipino community for their patronage and we were honored to be a part of their celebration of a very memorable event in Filipino history," said IT&E general manager Rose A. Soledad.

The 2016 Pistang Pinoy was an all-day event, which featured live entertainment, various food vendors, clothing and toy booths, and a raffle program. The event was organized by the United Filipino Organization, led by its president Bong Malasarte, who is supported by numerous members of the group.

In other news, effective immediately, IT&E Tinian and Rota stores will be closed for lunch from 11:30am to 1pm and also closed on Saturdays. Customers who may need assistance outside the new store operation hours can contact the IT&E Customer Care Center at 682-4483. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, IT&E general manager Rose A. Soledad, UFO president Bong Malasarte, IT&E chief financial officer Susana Ligeralde, and IT&E executive director of Operations Rob C. Harrell.

NMIS valedictorian Rosete values the help of classmates

JON PEREZ

Deirdre Mae P. Rosete, right, prepares to receive her medal from CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, partly hidden, in last Friday's commencement exercises of Northern Mariana International School at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Deirdre Mae P. Rosete appreciates all the help she received from classmates, who also became her friends. She appreciated their kind gesture in her valedictory address in last Friday's commencement exercises of the Northern Marianas International School at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

"Eighth grade wasn't easy but we made it. I thank all of you for being supportive. For all the help and support not only in our subjects but also outside the classroom," said Rosete, an incoming ninth grader.

"The lessons that we learned will forever be in our minds and hearts. Ten years from now I'll look back and remember all the good things that we shared," added Rosete, who is currently in Salt Lake City, Utah to compete in the National Speech and Debate Association national finals.

Christian C. Aldan, the class salutatorian, said their journey continues with the next phase. "Treasure each moment. You can become anything if you want to. Find your passion and challenge yourself to become somebody."

He then thanked all special people who have become part of his life at NMIS. "Thank you to the greatest classmates. Thank you to my teachers who gave me the best education. And, thank you to my family for feeding and encouraging me."

CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero thanked private schools like NMIS for being their partners in providing education. "This is my first time to attend a private school ceremony. The Public School System needs all the help that we can get."

"This is a day that all of you should be proud of. You are moving on with your education and continuing the journey to learn. In life, education is important since there's still much to learn out there. Even old people continue to learn. It is an unending process up to the last breath."

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, for her part, advised the students—K-3, K-5, grade 6, and grade 8—to hold on to good things and let go of the bad.

"Hold on to tomorrow since holding on to something will get you somewhere. Congratulations to all and thank you for the chance to join the kids on their special day. Congratulations to the NMIS staff for a job well done.

Lance Ivan P. Laxamana, Jener Franz O. Pineda, and Laurence Raevin C. Abad were each of the K3, K5, and sixth grade valedictorians. Sara Josephine Murielle J. Sobremisana was the K3's first honorable mention with Alianna Layne Q. Sublemente duplicating the feat in the sixth grade.

FROM FESTPAC TO WESTPAC:
Guam governor remains focused on ocean resources, ancestors

TUMON BAY, Guam—Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo opened the 166th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council last week in Tumon Bay, Guam, with words of respect and love for the ocean. "We have limited land spaces and a sacred view of the ocean," Calvo said. "The council discussion is extremely important."

Calvo said Guam and the council have worked on numerous projects together. He was particularly pleased with the Americans with Disabilities Act compliant fishing platform at Hagatna, which served a dual purpose as a viewing platform during the Festival of Pacific Arts, which ended Sunday. He encouraged the council to continue work on extension of the platform.

He also singled out regional fishery concerns about shark predation and sea turtle regulations as well as a recent partnership with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for a nationally competitive Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) grant. Calvo said the S-K funds will be used to collect commercial fisheries import and export data as well as local fisheries data.

Calvo concluded his remarks noting that the people of Guam, like the people of many other island territories and nations, believe that ancestors who have died are still present and can be called on for their strength and goodness. "We understand the value and importance of our land; the importance and value of our ocean. As we move forward and work with each other and our federal partners, particularly in Washington, DC, our love for our islands is even greater than those tasked with the job. ... The voices of the Pacific must be heard."

Following a full day of presentations and reports, the Council voted to pursue the following Guam fisheries-related undertakings:

- To work with the Government of Guam to fund marine preserve markers and signs.
- To work on an educational video on fisheries in the Mariana archipelago.
- To help develop a permanent display in the new Guam museum to highlight the indigenous fishing practices of the Mariana Islands.
- To ask the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center to study seasonal fishes, migration and fish behavior in Guam.
- To communicate the fishing community's concerns to the Guam Department of Agriculture regarding the potential overexploitation of sea cucumbers in Guam and assist in developing options for a moratorium on sea cucumber harvest under the Administrative Adjudication Law until an assessment of the sea cucumber populations can be conducted.
- To work with its advisory body members, the CNMI and Guam governments, the Mayor's Council of Guam, and representatives of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Philippines and Japan to share information and management regimes, if any, and to discuss green sea turtle populations in the region.
- To work with Guam Department of Agriculture and the Mayor's office in Yigo to identify an area in the village to build a boat ramp and to have this project included in Guam's Marine Conservation Plan. ***(PR)***

BOOK-MAKING TILT

The William S. Reyes School held it's 2nd Annual Young Author/ Book-making Contest. Congratulations to our WSR Young Author/ Book-making Contest winners! First place went to Cyrel Jose and Kaya Rasa for their story *Arychoo*, second place went to Leilani Taisacan and Freda Villagomez for their story *Our Memories of Ms. Zhen*, while third place went to author Yonnie Dejillas and illustrator Remedio Dela Cruz for *A Room of Fantasy*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two new restaurants under one roof!
SUNSHINE CAFÉ
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Coffee, fresh juices, milkshakes, homemade desserts and more...
Open daily, 9am – 11pm
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麻辣火锅 Celebrity Sichuan hotpot
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The very first HOT POT on the island!
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Majestic Building, Coral Tree Avenue Garapan, Saipan 96950 Northern Mariana Islands
Tel. Sunshine Café: 233–8300 • Tel. Hot Pot No. 1: 233-8301

Gabionza to further studies in hospitality industry

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While he has already started a career in the hospitality industry, Maximina Gabionza is looking to further her studies and widen her knowledge about lifeblood of the CNMI.

She is now working at Kanoa Resort after completing a certification program given by Latte Training Academy.

LTA, in partnership with the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute, has already given out more than 100 globally recognized certificates since 2014 to high school seniors that completed the hospitality program.

Last Thursday night at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, LTA handed another 61 certificates to high school seniors from Kagman (20), Marianas (19), and Saipan Southern (22) high schools. This is the fifth group that completed the said program.

Gabionza, who graduated from SSHS, and MHS' Pavan Hemlani were one of two alumnae of the program. They were the guest speakers of the certification ceremony of Cohort 5.

JON PEREZ

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, right, joins students from Marianas High School after receiving their American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute certificates last Thursday night at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Now that she has a job in one of the hotels on Saipan, Gabionza said that she doesn't want to stay only in one department but would like to explore and learn the other areas of the industry where she works.

"I want to go to and try different departments. But I would like to concentrate more in the food and beverage department. Go out and learn new things in my line of work," said Gabionza, who added that she also plans to study at Northern Marianas College.

NMC offers an associate in Applied Science in Hospitality Management but another option is to take specialty courses given by Island Training Solutions president Jim Arenovski.

She said completing the AHLEI program was hard since you have to take it for one whole semester, three hours a day, and three times a week.

"That was in my senior year. You really have a lot of effort that you need to put in to complete the program. Time management got me through since I was finishing up my classes and the hospitality program," Gabionza said.

She was glad that she survived since both of her finals were done the same day.

Kagman's Riana Ignacia Sablan Nauta completed the program with honors, while Jia Wen "Jacky" Chen, John Fabian, Marla Mettao, Angel Mar Pamintuan, and Kayleen Salle duplicated the feat for MHS.

Miller James Bundoc, Mike Carreon, Jackyrie Castro, Sam Esturas, and Bruce Ong earned their certificates with honors for SSHS.

The AHLEI certification course is provided in cooperation with LTA and the CNMI Public School System. PSS funds the program where 25 students each from KHS, MHS, and SSHS can be admitted. The program started with 17 students from the three high schools in 2014.

Larry Lee, Tyce Mister, and Kanae Quinn were the instructors for KHS, MHS, and SSHS, respectively.

JON PEREZ

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, right, joins students from Kagman High School after receiving their American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute certificates last Thursday night at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 16-029

Opening Date: Tuesday, June 07, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, June 20, 2016

Trades Technician (Electric Meter Technician)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Power: Transmission & Distribution, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $20,826.00 per annum to $28,115.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : Four (4)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 4 years of experience related to area of assignment. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 16-030

Opening Date: Tuesday, June 07, 2016
Closing Date: Monday, June 20, 2016

Trades Technician: Lineperson

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Power Division Manager or his/her designee. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. To install, repair and maintain overhead and underground electrical power lines and auxiliary equipment. Strings, splices, transfers and sags wire in energized or de-energized circuits and connects wires and transformers as specified or directed. Shortens or lengthens lines by adding or removing wire, using a variety of types of splices, connectors, sleeves or clamps. Regularly works above ground on poles or steel towers using climbers and safety belt or operating man lift equipment, boom truck or other specialized equipment. Routes or re-routes power lines over, under or around existing lines and structures, regularly working above, on, or in close proximity to energized lines. Selects and uses a variety of "hot line" tools and makes use of rubber gloves, line hoses, mechanical jumpers, fiber guards, blankets and other protective devices as specified. Works on all voltages as required throughout the system. Installs and removes transformers, including primary and secondary current transformers and self-contained meters; cut-outs, disconnecting switches, circuit breakers and other overhead line, rigging block and tackle where necessary or working with ground crew and winch to raise or lower equipment. May install street and area lights, working with primary and secondary voltages. May change transformer locations on maps. Performs line switching or sectionalizing as directed. Performs emergency repairs, phases and connects circuits under load; performs load checks and balances feeders as required. Inspects lines, poles and equipment for signs of damage or wear and reports deficiencies. Assists in carrying poles, digging holes, piking and guying poles and other such operations involved in the setting or replacing of poles; may erect steel towers. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S) : Power Transmission & Distribution, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $20,826.00 per annum to $28,115.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 4 years of experience related to area of assignment. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Local student wins in Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

Eleven-year-old Jy Joeng Son, a 5th grade student from Oleai Elementary School, was selected as one of the world contest winners in the 10th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.

There were over 850,000 entries from over 80 countries that submitted artwork to the global art contest. The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest encourages children from all corners of the globe to share their ideas about the future of mobility by drawing their dream cars.

Overall there are 10 winners in the three age categories, which include 7 years old and under, 8-11 years old, and 12-15 years old. This year is the first year that both Guam and Saipan students participated and there were over 240 art entries from island schools. Atkins Kroll, the local Toyota distributor, conducted the contest on both Guam and Saipan.

When asked what inspired her to draw a dream car, Jy Joeng said "origami, the art of folding paper." Her dream car has the ability to fold itself as origami. Its malleability will allow the car to compress itself so that it will require minimum parking space.

The winning students are invited with their parents to a four-day trip to Japan from Aug. 22 to 24, 2016.

They will enjoy sightseeing, touring the Toyota factory, participating in cultural workshops in Nagoya and Tokyo, and finally, attending the World Awards ceremony.

"We at Toyota believe in nurturing the creativity of the next generation of great inventors, thinkers and dreamers and we are thrilled to recognize our Dream Car Art Contest winners," said Marketing & Communication director, Ernie Galito. "We applaud their creativity and congratulate these students, their parents and educators for their participation".

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan student Jy Joeng Son's winning entry in the 10th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.

For more information contact Ernie Galito (671) 649-8400 or ernie.galito@akguam.com. ***(PR)***

Kagman HS 4Q report card distribution this Friday

Kagman High School's 4th quarter report card will be ready for pickup on Friday, June 17, from the school's main office. This report card will include your child's progress in reading and math. The report card will include reports from the Achieve3000 reading program, Star reading, and Star Math programs. These are the programs KHS uses to monitor and measure student academic achievement and growth.

KHS is also accepting ongoing registration for School Year 2016-2017. Please ensure your child's schedule is secure by registering by July 8, 2016. Registered student schedules will be made available at the orientations:

- Freshman orientation on Aug. 11, 1pm at KHS café
- Sophomore orientation on Aug. 11, 2016, 2:30pm at KHS café
- Junior orientation on Aug. 12, 1pm at KHS café
- Senior orientation on Aug. 12, 2:30pm at KHS cafe

School opens on Aug. 15, 2016! Enjoy your summer! ***(PR)***

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
博華太平洋

Imperial Pacific is committed to building a world class integrated resort in Saipan. We are a group of unique and talented individuals focusing on developing and operating premium, integrated entertainment facilities and holiday resorts in globally recognized tourism destinations.

We are looking for intelligent and talented people to join our growing team of professionals.

Imperial Pacific offers exciting career opportunities as well as first-rate compensation and benefit packages.

Date: Thursday,16 Jun 2016 **RECRUITMENT DAY** Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Venue: Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Banquet Hall - Azucena

Hotel Operations	
Executive Housekeeper	1
Assistant Executive Housekeeper	1
Room Attendant	80
Room Maintenance Handyman	10
Manager - Public Area	1
Public Area Cleaner	60
Manager - Wardrobe	1
Wardrobe Attendant	20
Seamstress	5
Manager - Laundry	1
Supervisor - Laundry	2
Coordinator - Laundry	1
Laundry Attendant	20
Laundry Runner	5
Steward - Kitchen	2

Hospitality	
Administrative Assistant	1
VIP Driver	20
Tour Operator	5

Purchasing	
Manager - Purchasing	1

Finance	
Assistant Vice President / Vice President - Group Taxation	1
Gaming Auditor	3

Food & Beverage	
Hygiene Manager	1
Restaurant Manager - Employee Dining	1
Restaurant Manager - Northern Chinese Restaurant	1

Food & Beverage	
Restaurant Manager - Cantonese Restaurant	1
Restaurant Manager - Buffet & All Day Dining	1
Assistant Restaurant Manager - Chinese	4
Assistant Restaurant Manager - Buffet & All Day Dining	3
Restaurant Supervisor - Chinese	11
Server I	19
Server II	19
Chef de Cuisine - Buffet & All Day Dining	1
Chef de Cuisine - Northern Chinese Restaurant	1
Chef de Cuisine - Cantonese Restaurant	1
Sous Chef - Buffet & All Day Dining	4

Food & Beverage	
Sous Chef - Cantonese Restaurant	2
Sous Chef - Northern Chinese Restaurant	2
Junior Sous Chef - Buffet & All Day Dining	2
Junior Sous Chef - Northern Chinese Restaurant	2
Junior Sous Chef - Cantonese Restaurant	1
Chef de Partie - Buffet & All Day Dining	4
Chef de Partie - Northern Chinese Restaurant	3
Chef de Partie - Cantonese Restaurant	3
Demi Chef - Chinese Cuisines	11
Commis I - Chinese Cuisines	14
Steward Manager	1

To apply, please visit imperialpaccareer.com For schedule your priority interview, please contact us at (670) 233-9188 during office hours from Monday to Friday between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm or by careers@bestsunshinesaipan.com before 15 Jun.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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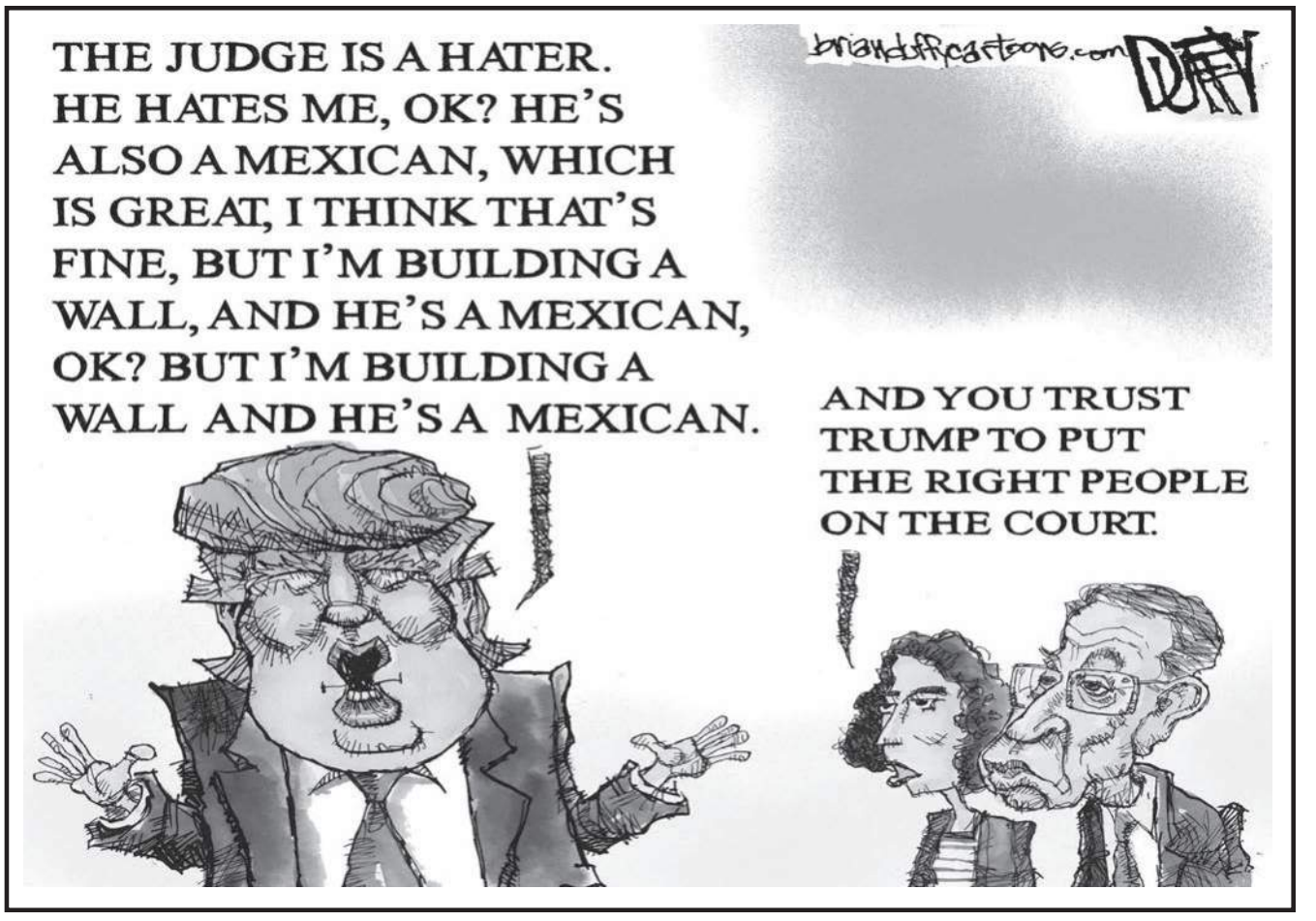
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


THE JUDGE IS A HATER. HE HATES ME, OK? HE'S ALSO A MEXICAN, WHICH IS GREAT, I THINK THAT'S FINE, BUT I'M BUILDING A WALL, AND HE'S A MEXICAN, OK? BUT I'M BUILDING A WALL AND HE'S A MEXICAN.
AND YOU TRUST TRUMP TO PUT THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE COURT.

EDITORIAL

Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump and the week that roiled campaign 2016

The last Republican to occupy the White House, George W. Bush, has scars on his legacy — from his handling of Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq war to the seeds of the Great Recession. One of them, however, isn't an aversion to diversity as measured by ethnicity and race. He embraced it. In his first term, he appointed to his Cabinet five women, three Hispanics, four African-Americans and two Asian-Americans. When he ran for re-election in 2004, exit polls suggested that he got 40 percent of the Hispanic vote.

Bush wasn't a renegade Republican. For much of the last century, both of this nation's major political parties aspired — admittedly with uneven success — to build coalitions of voters from different slices of the American populace. Neither party used race, creed or ethnicity to project who was, or wasn't, welcome in its tent. More equaled merrier.

Fast forward to one of Donald Trump's worst passages in his quest for the presidency. His contention that a Mexican-American judge presiding over a lawsuit against Trump University was biased because of the judge's Latino heritage triggered panic within the GOP. Trump's remarks weren't an anomaly — they track with his derisive, arguably exclusionary remarks about women, his pledge to build a wall to keep out Mexican rapists and criminals, and his plan to secure America through a temporary ban on all Muslim immigration.

The obvious paradox: As Trump was further isolating his campaign from much of America, Hillary Clinton was claiming triumph as the first woman ever chosen to lead a major-party ticket.

Reveling in that moment at a rally in Brooklyn late Tuesday, she told the nation that her historic push toward the White House would embrace the American ideal of inclusion, and not the Trump penchant for bigotry. "To be great, we can't be small," she told supporters.

That demarcation between the Clinton and Trump candidacies — her message of inclusion, his embrace of exclusion — may thread through the candidates' upcoming speeches, ads, tweets and interviews. Or maybe Trump will realize how damaging his vitriol is to his Oval Office aspirations.

If he doesn't, someone in his camp should explain to him that, when he denigrates Judge Curiel, he doesn't just insult Mexicans or, more broadly, Hispanics. He cudgels anyone with an immigrant heritage, or for that matter, anyone who is different because of race, religion, gender or gender preference.

That can't be good for a candidate who, with a contentious general election looming, must find ways to reach millions of African-American, Hispanic, female and other voters who right now are not part of his base.

Yes, his opponent, too, has vulnerabilities. In her prima-

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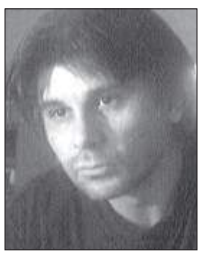
When are the Americans coming?



By TIBERIU DIANU
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tiberiu Dianu is a scholar and author of several books and articles in law and post-communist societies. He studied law, human rights, and criminal justice at the universities of Bucharest (Romania), Strasbourg (France), Oxford and Manchester (U.K.), American University (in Washington, D.C.), and University of Maryland at College Park (in Maryland). He currently lives in Washington, D.C. and works for various government and private agencies. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The interrogation, shaped as an outcry for freedom in the post-1945 period, encompasses a horizon of high, albeit immaterialized, expectations, turned subsequently into a depository of unfulfilled sentiments, passed from generation to generation in the form of some actions motivated by hope and/or frustration.

We have identified two specific regional dimensions—the Atlantic one, present in some U.S. military allied countries in Eastern Europe, and the Pacific one, detected by anthropologists at some populations in Oceania—each of them with strategic implications.

The Atlantic Dimension

In Eastern Europe, the expectations for an American arrival were taking shapes since the Allied invasion of Normandy, on June 6, 1944. But in Spring 1945, when the American and Russian armies were advancing toward Berlin from opposite directions, several Eastern European nations got caught in between the games of interests of these two main actors. This was due to a previous U.S.-Soviet Union agreement establishing a certain demarcation line in the front zone.

In the Czech Republic, the anti-German resistance members of the Prague Uprising (May 5 to May 8, 1945) could not persuade the U.S. Army to intervene, although their units were just 12 miles away and able to capture the city in several hours. American politicians and generals (like Omar Bradley) – fearing they would anger their Soviet ally—forced their military to play a passive role, and did not allow general George Patton to take over Prague, although he was wanted and expected there by the majority of the population (except for the pro-Soviet sympathizers). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague_uprising

In Romania (initially an Axis member), after the country switched sides to the Allies on August 23, 1944, the population's unfulfilled expectations—to be liberated by American troops from both Nazi Germany and Communist Russia—had a more dramatic turn of events. Anti-communist guerrilla fighters, led by former Royal army officers, were able to operate somewhat effectively in the Carpathian mountains against the Red Army occupied country, throughout the entire late-1940s to early-1960s period. http://www.cinemagia.ro/trailer/undeva-in-est-930/ But even after that, mixed feelings of hope and frustration continued to persist until after the fall of communism, in 1989. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJ6olTZs650 The "non-arrival of Americans"— both during the post-1945 and post-1989 periods – has been a theme generously exploited by the local movie industry, and rewarded with international film festival awards.

The Pacific Dimension

For the nations of Oceania (and especially in Melanesia), https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/93/Pacific_Culture_Areas.jpg these unfulfilled expectations have partly surfaced in the form of cargo cults. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cargo_cult Initially, cargo cults appeared as a synthesis of local and foreign elements, involving help from the ancestors and abundance of goods, but later on – especially during and post-World War 2 era – Pacific cults were associated with (mostly) the U.S. military equipment and supplies airdropped to troops and islanders, that drastically changed the lifestyle of the latter. After 1945, the military abandoned the airbases and stopped dropping cargos, causing the local leaders to develop cults promising deliverance of goods as gifts from their ancestors or other sources. Ever since, the sentiment of nostalgia has been extremely intense, making the cult members to mimic some U.S. soldiers' routines, like military parades, drills and landing signals. http://googlesightseeing.com/2008/02/john-frum-day/

Cargo cults or so-called cults—like "John Frum (America)" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Frum or "Johnson cult" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnson_cult—are still active in countries like Fiji, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea.

Strategic implications

Obviously, all these manifestations of sympathy for American values and military personnel must be commended and appreciated for their loyalty and durability throughout time. Apparently, pro-American attitudes in Eastern Europe have been a constant in the area since the early 1920s. Therefore, as we emphasized in previous occasions, http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/05/the_american_idiocracy_and_eastern_europe.html

These Eastern front nations need to be encouraged and rewarded accordingly—before they do not turn again to bitter frustrations—by engaging them more actively against the current Russian expansionism toward West and the Atlantic.

On the other hand, since

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CWs, where are we headed now?—Part II

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." **—Winston Churchill**

Last Dec. 3, 2007, four days before the unity march from Kilili Beach to American Memorial Park, I wrote a letter to the editor titled "exodus of foreign workers leaving the islands" due to (1) CNMI government introduction of Labor Reform Bill HB 15-108 otherwise known as "the alien workers act" that limit foreign workers to leave the island after three years of continued working and allow them to stay in their country of origin for about six months before coming back in the island. (2) Seeking the retention of HB 3074 that includes the "grandfathering of long-term foreign workers" in the island but it was scrapped before it reaches the U.S. Congress.

The unity march was very, very successful but the alien workers act (HB 15-108 / HB 3074) was unsuccessful.

"The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA), Public Law 110-229, was signed into law on May 8, 2008. Title VII of this law amended Pub. L. 94-241, the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States.

Title VII extended most provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and other U.S. immigration laws to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island (CNMI) for the first time".

Sec. 701: Statement of Congressional Intent of CNRA. (a) "Immigration and Growth.—In recognition of the need to ensure uniform adherence to long-standing fundamental immigration policies of the United States, it is the intention of the Congress in enacting this subtitle— (1) to ensure that effective border control procedures are implemented and observed, and that national security and homeland security issues are properly addressed, by extending the immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 (a)(17)), to apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands".

Sec. 701 does not emphasized or recognizes the activities and/or advocacies of foreign workers in the island in implementing federal immigration under the CNRA in the Northern Mariana Islands. Blaming individuals who were advocated for CNMI federal takeover is inappropriate.

"On Sept. 7, 2011, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a final rule that establishes a Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa classification (CW) for foreign workers only in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Employers of nonimmigrant workers who are ineligible for other employment-based nonimmigrant visa classifications under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) can apply for temporary permission to employ workers in the CNMI under the CW classification.

The paragraph above has never been completely addressed by some qualified employers that is why the 2016 CW cap has been reach. Likewise, USCIS itself is in trouble by accepting petitions for professional employees and seasonal workers under the CW category when in fact they are otherwise qualified for H-Visa. The USCIS violated the final rule that they themselves drafted. We challenge this final rule implementation in the U.S District Court via a lawsuit but we failed to establish the 3 merit of injunction and it was dismissed with prejudice.

"On June 3, 2014, the U.S. Department of Labor published a notice in the Federal Register extending the CW program to December 31, 2019", the final year when there will be a zero foreign workers in CNMI.

Clarification on CW-1 extension of stay petitions

On May 20, USCIS announced that it had received a sufficient number of petitions to reach the numerical limit (the "cap") of 12,999 workers who may be issued CW-1 visas or otherwise provided with CW-1 status for fiscal year (FY) 2016. May 5 was the final receipt date for CW-1 worker petitions requesting an employment start date before October 1, 2016. We are clarifying that although extension of stay petitions for current CW-1 workers are counted toward the CW-1 cap; these petitions will be accepted under certain circumstances.

Everyone is hoping that all petitions filed on time after May 5, 2016 will falls under "certain circumstances" and that the 240 days is considered valid.

Quite confusing that from October 1, 2015 up to May 5, 2016, 12,999 CW had been approved already meaning within more than seven months or almost half of the calendar year, the door for CW petitions were closed already. A lot of those within the 2016 cap are now subject for rejection if filed after May 5, 2016.

What happens after the cap is reached

"USCIS will reject CW-1 petitions that were received after May 5, 2016 and that request an employment start date before October 1, 2016. This includes CW-1 petitions for extensions of stay that are subject to the CW-1 cap. The filing fees will be returned with any rejected CW-1 petition".

"If an extension petition is rejected, then the beneficiaries listed on that petition are not permitted to work beyond the validity period of the previously approved petition. Therefore, affected beneficiaries, including any CW-2 derivative family members of a CW-1 nonimmigrant, must depart the CNMI within 10 days after the CW-1 validity period has expired, unless they have some other authorization to remain under U.S. immigration law".

At this point, the six months filing period for those CWs that is expiring after May 5 will be rejected and became invalid. Is the 240 days processing period is also been set aside by this May 5, 2016 cap? Poor (fellow) CW workers will end up with nothing, pack-up personal belongings for eventual unplanned vacation or stay back for a reason.

This is ridiculous. What happens to the 30-day period of stay after the expiration of CW to look for another possible employer? Is the 30-days grace period overturned by the 10 days exit if a certain petition is rejected? There must be some kind of relief in favor of the CWs who are helpless in filing their CW renewal.

CW workers renewal lies at the hands and at the mercy of their employer.

If in 2007, the exodus of foreign workers leaving the island did not occur because of the scrapping of the proposed HB 15-108, this time due to the CW cap limitations, I am afraid if USCIS will not consider those petitions filed after May 5, 2016, the exodus of foreign workers leaving the island is about to begin.

On CW cap development, "The 902 talks both agreed to focus in on the issues of the expiration of the CNMI-only transition worker program in 2019 and U.S. Department of Defense activities in the CNMI, according to a statement from the Interior and problems with the U.S. through a total dissection of our Covenant and re-negotiation of those terms and conditions, which need to be updated preferably in our favor.

"The objective of these 902 Consultations is to provide an avenue for high level discussions on the issues of immigration, labor, and U.S. national security interests between U.S. and CNMI officials."

We hope that the ongoing 902 talks will focus on grandfathering of long-time foreign workers as it is the best options to make favoring both employers and employees for the ongoing future development in the island. A 10-year extension is just another way of prolonging the hardship and agony of CW workers.

Other consideration is to grant long-time foreign worker with a CNMI-only resident status for those who were granted with umbrella permit. This are the very workers who dedicated their years of experience in providing quality workmanship, loyalty, and are law-abiding citizens in this island they called home. We urge CNMI lawmakers and Congressman Kilili to pursue the improve immigration status for long time foreign workers to maintain current workforce that are badly needed in the island.

Carlito J. Marquez
Lower Base

AMERICANS

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populations in Oceania have been exhibiting constant pro-American attitudes, basically since the 1898 Spanish-American War, http://puertoricomonitor.blogspot.com/2016/05/statehood-for-us-territories-historical.html the next American administration should envision them, as we proposed before,http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/oped.php?news_id=30444&start=0&category_id=6 into a renewed construction (particularly the current U.S. territories and the COFA nations) geared to neutralize the current Chinese (and Russian) expansion toward the East and the Pacific.

HILLARY

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ry-season quest to appropriate Sen. Bernie Sanders' voters, she has promised them much spending, but hasn't explained how an exorbitantly indebted federal government can begin to live within its means. Her decision to use a private server for emails while she was secretary of state remains the focus of an FBI investigation. And she has yet to find a way to reach the millions of millennials who latched on to Sanders' progressive platform, and continue to view her as the embodiment of old-guard Washington — moneyed, insular and untrustworthy.

The nation is coming to grips, uneasily, with its two likely major-party nominees. As Americans reconcile themselves to those facts, this week, unlike any thus far, has roiled campaign 2016:

—Clinton has tried to parlay her moment of triumph — pending ratification at her party's Philadelphia convention — into an outreach to voters Trump has alienated.

—Trump, meanwhile, has been repudiating the manner in which successful Republicans made their way to the White House. Another example: Ronald Reagan won 35 percent of the Hispanic vote in 1980 and 37 percent in 1984. Remember Reagan's 1983 quip about Hispanics? "Latinos are Republicans — they just don't know it yet."

If the Republican Party can't make Trump correct course, many of them never will.

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We were serious

I was acting Senate vice president for a day several days ago and I found the nine senators friendly, congenial, and entertaining. I was, especially, happy that I was assigned to be with my nephew, Senate vice president Arnold I. Palacios, as his alter ego. Palacios is not new to the CNMI Legislature. He has been there after his graduation from college in Oregon

He was also rge secretary of DLNR prior to his being elected senator from Saipan. So I was not surprised of his understanding and currency on the issues facing Saipan, as well as CNMI-wide problems, welfare, and forward progress, and that includes the entire world. He was also "quick on his feet" on the Senate floor issues and rules of procedures. I was amazed. With his procedural coaching, I ran the session smoothly.

That day was the "*Man'Amko* (senior citizens) Take-Over Day, and many of the *man'amko* (senior citizens) were assigned to various governmental offices to experience the working atmosphere of the individual offices and department. Two *man'amko* were detailed to the Judiciary. One of them was assigned as the acting Superior Court presiding judge (while the other was assigned to the chief justice's office as acting chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

Some others were assigned to the various governmental offices, agencies, and departments such as Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Garapan Fire Station, and still others were assigned to the Legislature. I was one of the three acting senators from Saipan. There was a delegation from Tinian, three senators, and several others who were assigned to the House of Representatives. There were delegations to the House of Representatives from the Saipan *man'amko* as well. Each one of us, senators, presented our concerns about life and progress in our respective island communities. Acting senator Jesus Malus discussed poverty as affected by the current minimum wage both in the government and private sectors. Acting senator Guiao reflected similar concerns.

When I took the floor, I expressed my concerns about the current issues regarding the fate of the CWs, the domino effect it will cause by sudden population drop, the effect of it on the marketplace, the apartment-rents, the hotel and motel occupancies, the fact that tourism is not going to help much when we don't have enough customers and utility-users to enable enterprises to survive, the CNMI land-lease money and how it could be used, like paying the land owners for their lands taken via eminent domain. I also expressed my concern about our being a tax-haven territory for "loaded" investors like Best Sunshine, for one, and I made an impromptu calculation on how much, revenue-wise, we could be getting. Even at one percent tax on the "income" for one year, that would definitely amount to more than $1,000 each year, and a good source of revenue for us. But, life is a mystery. I also found that my cohorts assigned to the Senate were really concerned about community life, the minimum wage and the fact that those minimum wage earners couldn't find their way out of the poverty guideline, so they've become spendthrifts and shop-smart. The time we spent expressing our concerns about our community life and what could be in the future through the "Gypsy glass-bowl" showed that people could be really serious about life here in the CNMI, given the opportunity. And when we presented out concerns on the Senate Floor, I noticed that our characters and attitudes changed. We became unusually serious. Our mindset locked on matters of community concern. Our facial expressions changed. We tried to force smiles to lighten up the serious floor atmosphere. At the end of the Senate session, it seemed as if our thinking on issues changed, too. I do hope it does for the better now. Thank you Senate vice oresident Arnold I. Palacios, Sen. Sixto Igisomar, and Sen. Justo Quitugua, as well as Tinian Sen. Jude Hofschneider, and the others, for your senatorial courtesy, congeniality, smiles, light jokes, sweets, and coffee, and really polite staff, to remove any nervousness we, the *man'amko*, may have carried onto the Senate floor. *Danke Schoen*.

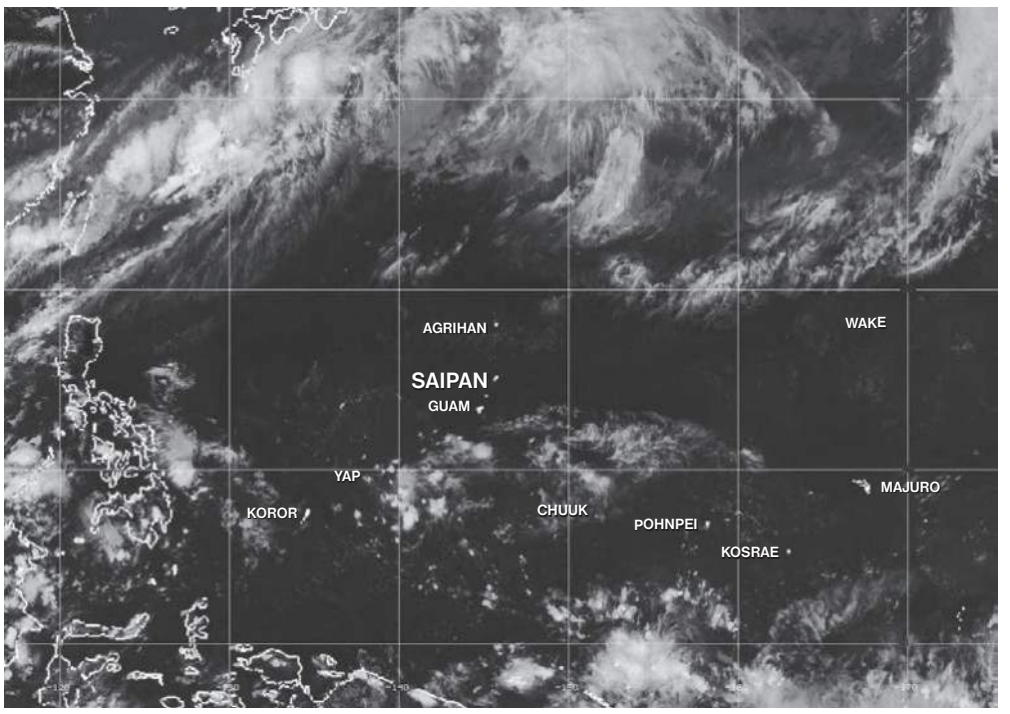
Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲91° ▼80°	▲91° ▼80°	▲90° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly-stationary front north of Wake Island curves southwestward from 25N170E to 21N158E then northwestward to beyond 25N151E. Clouds and patchy showers are along and up to 150 miles north of the front. A surface trough northwest of Koror is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas west of a line from 13N131E to 9N133E to 6N133E. Upper-level divergence is triggering spotty thunderstorms well south of Guam between Yap and Chuuk between 11N and 8N from 141E to 152E. Gentle to moderate trade winds and dry weather prevails across the rest of Micronesia.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼50
Beijing	Rain	▲73	▼65
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼83
Honolulu	Windy	▲85	▼74
London	Showers	▲66	▼51
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼58
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼44
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼60
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼70
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼54
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼66
Rome	Showers	▲79	▼64
Salem	Cloudy	▲64	▼48
San Francisco	Windy	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼68
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼65
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲83	▼64

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
4:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:42 PM	1:15 AM
Wednesday	2:29 PM	1:54 AM
Thursday	3:16 PM	2:32 AM
Friday	4:05 PM	3:12 AM
Saturday	4:54 PM	3:54 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

PSS maintenance staff undergo HVAC training

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is finding itself busy this summer as it has begun providing training for numerous entities seeking specific training courses for their respective organizational needs. These entities include organizations such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI Public School System.

According to Kathy Arriola, NMTI's director of Curriculum and Instruction, "companies want their staff trained but ask that we cater the training requested to their specific needs and the availability of staff. In many instances summer is the only time professional development is conducted."

PSS staff are currently undergoing a rigorous training regimen in Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) maintenance. The 27 maintenance personnel signed up for the course are being exposed to topics such as basic electricity, basic refrigeration theory, air distribution systems, system controls, and HVAC diagnostics.

The training is conducted by instructor Juan Pocaigue and gives an in-depth understanding behind a highly sensitive profession greatly regulated by U.S. Environmental and Protection Agency as we gain greater understanding on climate change issues. Pocaigue is North American Technician Excellence (NATE)-and National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER)-certified.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Public School System maintenance staff are back in the classroom undergoing Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) maintenance training.

"Students are getting a highly qualified instructor as Mr. Pocaigue has impressive credentials not only in HVAC but safety as well. NMTI is extremely lucky to have such talent at its disposal," according to Agnes McPhetres, NMTI's chief executive officer. She further noted, "NMTI is in high spirits to have PSS personnel on campus as we continue to grow our partnerships with different organizations. I thank Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan for seeing us as a learning resource and committing to such opportunities for her staff. Their presence here is a profound statement in the right direction." ***(PR)***

NMTI hosts PSS summer component

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute will be hosting middle school and high school students from the CNMI Public School System this summer.

The program will be coordinated by PSS' Dr. Jessica Taylor and is focused on giving participating students hands-on learning in the areas offered by NMTI. The subjects being taught this summer include: Constructing a Scale Model House; Basic Carpentry; Culinary Arts; Environmental Awareness; How to Maintain Your Car; and Constructing a Non-Circulating Hydroponics Unit.

The program, which will be from June 14 to July 6, marks the second year of the course offering. NMTI is anticipating at least 141 students signing up. Rip Stephenson, Facilities planner and a returning instructor said, "last year was great and we're look forward to this year's students. At a glance one may think it's too long a session for a class, but last year's students proved us wrong as they refused to stop working on their projects without us reminding them it was time to go home."

As NMTI continues to grow, it is necessary to get our young students a taste of what other opportunities lay, according to Ross Manglona, director of Continuing Education & Workforce Development.

Manglona further stated, "As we continue our efforts at empowering the workforce, community awareness is of utmost importance. Stakeholders of all ages inspire prospective students and for that reason we are appreciative of PSS' confidence in our faculty and level of instruction." ***(PR)***

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement

Registered Nurse (06)
- Must pass NCLEX-RN with current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to Five years experience in hemodialysis or related field
- English language skills – proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service training with Baxter Phoenix Machines
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate Distribution System

Hemodialysis Technicians (07)
- Certificate from Junior College/Technician School in Healthcare or related field
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Three years hemodialysis experience preferred
- English language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Water Treatment Technician (02)
- Must be able to perform task which may not appear difficult at first glance, but requires a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory of fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment distribution systems, unique to a dialysis unit
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities, safety & life safety policies
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency test for Certified Water Treatment and Distribution Operators Level II
- Understand plumbing code and plumbing techniques
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques, proper plumbing techniques, when working pressure vessels
- Able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with PVC
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned

Building Maintenance and Repair (03)
- Perform a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair task
- Perform preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing and security systems
- Perform rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and petitions
- Install solar panels with experience in the maintenance of PV Models
- Maintains and repairs various equipment
- High School Graduate or Equivalent

Commercial Cleaners (02)
- Operate various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, buffers and etc.
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings
- Requires working in a damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids as required
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials
- Must handle various cleaning solvents and chemicals that is required by Medicare
- Damp dust furniture, light fixtures, windows and etc.
- Empty trash containers daily
- Clean and mop bathrooms daily. Mop all corridor floors, lobby and other floors daily
- Report any needed repairs immediately
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc., periodically, especially in patients areas and lobby
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping and post occupancy
- Required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner at the business office, Dr.'s office, accounting office, dietician and clinic managers' office
- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must have their own transportation

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc. in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application or resume will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 4:00pm. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.

Century Hotel is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

Bartender (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with minimum two (2) years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends.

Application may be picked up and submitted to Fiesta Resort's security office located in the South Wing. A drug test must be passed as a condition of employment.
Closing date: June 15, 2016

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

Chief Engineer (1)
Qualifications: Extensive experience with installing and troubleshooting electrical switches, operating boilers, and repairing appliances. Must have previous supervisory experience and over five (5) years experience as hotel chief engineer is required and preferably from a high volume hotel or large building complex.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from our security office located at the South Wing. To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than June 17, 2016. Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

Registered Nurse (01)
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN license
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- At least two to five year's experience
- English language skills - proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Front Office Manager (01)
- At least with over six year's experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedures and diagnosis
- College Graduate
- English language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must be a certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills, spreadsheet and general accounting skills

Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician (01)
- At least six year's experience or related field
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiology Technology
- Must have over six year's experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Experience/knowledgeable with practice partner software in electronic health records usage
- Licensed by Medical Professional Licensing Board, CNMI

General Yard Maintenance (02)
- At least two years' experience with preferred skills
- Experienced in assisting a building construction/renovation
- Maintain the interior and exterior of the clinic in a neat and orderly condition
- Maintain plants by transplanting and fertilizing
- Assist in cleaning the clinics' air conditionings
- Flexible in assisting other related maintenance duties
- Flexible with time schedule

Healthcare Clinic System Manager (01)
- Minimum of three to five years work related skills, knowledge or experience
- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent
- Maintain specialized computer programs relating to healthcare operations (medical billing, patients record, scheduler)
- Maintain all of the company's computer system including computer hardware, software, network and advance servers
- Oversee medical billing department by utilizing specialized computer software
- Oversee administrative areas and designs, develop and maintain paperless computer system
- Building maintenance repair, electronic records and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards
- Perform other duties as may be assigned

Interested applicants must submit a resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application or resume will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 4:00pm. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

IT Technical Support Specialist
Qualifications: Advanced experience in the configuration, installation, repair and troubleshooting of computer hardware, network switches, network line connections, routers, Ruckus A/P, phone lines, phone units and other computer peripherals. Advanced experience in networking phone system and security camera. Advanced experience with desktop operating systems and MS applications. Advanced experience and skills in problem identification and problem resolution techniques. Ability to prioritize tasks with long term projects and work in a fast paced environment with minimum supervision. Knowledge in property management POS, PBX system, web application and SAP. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, holidays and overtime if necessary. Working conditions may involve lifting and transporting of moderately heavy objects such as computers and peripherals.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from our security office located at the South Wing. To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than June 15, 2016. Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

Landscaping Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a landscaper in supervisory level. Knowledgeable in transplanting or pruning trees or shrubs. Must have strong communication and organizational skills to coordinate, supervise manage, or train others to accomplish goals. Must be able to lift and carry up to 35 pounds. Willing to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from our security office located at the South Wing. To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than June 17, 2016. Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

'16 Royal Court introduced at LibDay festival grounds

Last Friday, the 2016 Royal Court candidates were officially introduced to the community at the opening ceremony of Liberation Day Festivities.

Shortly after the ribbon cutting ceremony, the 2016 candidates were to led to the stage by the beautiful 2015 Liberation Queen and the Princesses. Dressed in beautiful outfits that resonated the CNMI's vibrant culture, the candidates deservedly represented the true beauty of the CNMI.

Shortly after the departing speech from last year's Queen, the 2016 Royal Court candidates started introducing themselves on stage. Their beauty, along with the beautiful lighting of the stage, captured the eyes of the audience who were cheering every candidate as if they were one of their own.

According to a young audience, the outfits were so beautiful and so stylish that she wishes she owns the set herself. The pageant routine was choreographed by the CNMI's renowned pageant director and choreographer, Ernie Molina. Skywalker Communications Group has been providing professional pageant training to the candidates which brought out the best in them on the opening ceremony.

After the formal introduction, the candidates gave an eye catching opening performance supervised by Rose Hacog, Skywalker's very own public relation manager and one of the past Royal Court Queens as well.

This year, a total of 26 candidates are competing for the crown, another record-breaking achievement by Skywalker Communications Group and the Saipan Mayor's Office. The candidates come from diverse ethnic backgrounds ranging from Chamorro, Carolinians, to Filipinos. "It was beautiful and I think the candidates represented their heritage well. I am hoping the candidates will be able to represent their cultures even better in the following events. It was a great show," said Tonett Teigita, mother of 2016 Royal Court candidate Mercilia Teigita.

In response, a member of the Liberation Day Organization committee said, "this is the first of many performances by the candidates. In the future, we will emphasize more on the rich heritage."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This year's Liberation Day Queen and Royal Court candidates pose wearing their cultural attire on opening day of the 2016 Liberation Day festivities at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Gaming booths launched successfully on opening day

After months of preparation and hard work, the 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Festivities is officially underway.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Skywalker Communications Group president Dr. Bo Hu, Liberation Day Non-Profit president Louis Rodgers, 2016 Liberation Day Committee chair Chris Leon Guerrero, Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, 2015 Miss CNMI Liberation Queen Zolenska Marie Rios Yaroitemal and her Royal Court, and Lady Dianne Torres officially opened the festival grounds with the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon.

With the experience gained from organizing and participating in last year's CNMI Liberation Day Festivities, Skywalker Communications Group was even more determined to bring something new for this year. "We wanted to provide more for the kids to enjoy, " explained Rose Ada-Hocog, public relations manager for Skywalker Communications Group, said "We believe that a family event should be an event that has something for both parents and children to enjoy."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young and young at heart took turns playing in the gaming booths at the 2016 Liberation Day grounds.

Skywalker Communications unveiled a total of 11 game booths that featured games such as Angry Bird, Balloon Darts, Turtle Ring Toss, Archery, among others and they immediately became instant hits.

"The excitement on the children's faces when they arrived on the grounds and saw the games was priceless," said Levonne Pangelinan, head of the games and volunteers committee. "We have kids, young adults, and adults lining up to play the games.

"We have parents helping their little ones play the games. It may be unsaid, but it is seen how they are bonding through the games and that in itself is enough to say that it is a successful event," she added. ***(PR)***

Rose Masayos, mother of candidate Nikela Masayos was ecstatic with the opening day performance, "It was amazing," she said. "I give all the candidate five stars and two thumbs up, it was a joy to watch." ***(PR)***

Civil Service Commission commends Torres

"The governor has stepped up and done the right thing," declared Herman Deleon Guerrero, chairman of the CNMI government's Civil Service Commission. "His reinstatement of the within-grade increase program for Civil Service employees is long overdue. The CNMI government's hardworking employees have not received performance increases since 2001 when the benefits were suspended."

On June 3, 2016 Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Directive 2016-002 lifting the suspension on Public Law 7-31 authorized within-grade increases and Public Law 11-59 authorized bonuses for Civil Service employees that have been suspended since 2001 due to a lack of funding.

The directive states that if a department or agency has the available funding, that entity may issue these benefits to eligible employees on their anniversary date starting on May 1, 2016. It emphasizes that the lifting of this suspension is not a guarantee that all eligible employees will receive their increase or bonus. Increases and bonus payments can only be made if personnel funding is available. The directive does not authorize any retroactive payments or payments to an employee who has left government service or left the Civil Service. The directive provides that all future increases and payments will be contingent upon the availability of funding.

All increases are performance based. The Within-Grade Increase is contingent upon satisfactory performance for the last 52 consecutive weeks. Receipt of the PL 11-59 bonus depends upon satisfactory performance for the immediately previous two years for those classified civil service employees frozen at the top step their pay grade for the previous two years.

"I think it's important to recognize that these increases are all based on performance. Performance evaluations must be accomplished on each eligible employee attesting to satisfactory or higher performance. For the past 15 years there has been no salary recognition of the hard work and fine performance of our Civil Service Employees. As a result the government has lost many good employees and others have carried on without increase," stated chair Deleon Guerrero. "We commend the governor for ending this stagnation and reinstating the government's performance incentive program." ***(PR)***

Mentoring for Pacific Community's future leaders

SUVA, Fiji—The next generation of senior managers at the Pacific Community (SPC) are taking part in a professional development workshop in Suva which includes Samoa's Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, as a special guest.

Deputy Prime Minister Mata'afa is delivering the opening remarks today at SPC's Pacific Leadership Programme workshop, sharing her perspectives on leadership, and tomorrow will mentor women participants as she shares the unique challenges she faced on her journey to becoming Samoa's first female deputy leader.

KPMG Fiji Partner, Lisa Apted, is also among the presenters who are sharing their guidance and experiences encountered on their leadership journeys.

"We have 20 participants in our Pacific Leadership Programme, which is a new initiative in 2016 aimed at building the leadership qualities of our intermediate-level staff who represent our organisation's future leaders," SPC Deputy Director-General, Dr. Audrey Aumua, said.

"We're honoured that Deputy Prime Minister Mata'afa has agreed to contribute to the growth of SPC by inspiring and engaging our emerging senior managers in leadership conversations," Aumua said.

Through the Leadership Programme, staff identified as having the potential to progress to senior leadership roles are supported in a structured way to realize their potential, to benefit them and their professional development, and SPC as a whole.

With more than 600 staff working across some 25 sectors, SPC is a significant employer in the region.

Anyone interested in pursuing a career with SPC is invited to apply for suitable vacancies online via the Careers@SPC website: http://careers.spc.int/en/. ***(PR)***

Business

To avoid conflicts with co-worker, clearly define your roles

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: One of my colleagues seems unable to separate my duties from his own. "Henry" constantly interferes with my work and makes critical comments about the way I do my job. When I offer friendly explanations for my decisions, he dismisses them by saying "that's just your opinion."

Henry and I work in different areas but have overlapping responsibilities. Although his constant meddling is driving me crazy, I'm not sure how to address this or with whom. We report to the same manager, but I haven't discussed this issue with him. Any advice?

A: Many co-worker squabbles are inaccurately labeled "personality conflicts'" when the real cause is that roles have been poorly defined. If the boundary between jobs is fuzzy, people inevitably step on each other's toes. Therefore, to solve this problem, you must first clarify your responsibilities.

To accomplish this, you will need to agree with your boss on the scope of your position. Start by drafting a detailed job description with particular focus on the areas of overlap with Henry. Describe your duties as you think they should be and then request your manager's input.

For example: "Henry and I often seem to be working on the same things, which can be very confusing. To avoid this, I've drafted a more detailed description of my role and would like to get your opinion. I believe that clearly defining my responsibilities will help to prevent future misunderstandings."

Having delineated your boundaries, you are now ready to begin managing communications with your annoying co-worker. Previously, your "friendly explanations" only served to reinforce Henry's intrusive behavior and encourage him to continue. So if you want him to change, you will need to provide a less rewarding response.

When Henry launches into one of his critical commentaries, do not attempt to justify your actions. Simply state that he's entitled to his opinion, but these decisions are yours to make. After that, just go on about your business and ignore any further remarks.

Q: I recently learned that my boss received sexual favors from one of my co-workers. I believe this is why she was given a promotion. I have considered sending an anonymous letter about this to the owner of our company. Would that be a good idea?

A: In order to answer this question, you must consider several others. First, how did you come by this knowledge? Unless you personally witnessed illicit contact, you are dealing in grapevine information, which is notoriously inaccurate. So if this is merely speculative gossip, don't repeat it to the owner or anyone else.

Second, why does your co-worker's promotion seem unjustified? If she met the qualifications and proper procedures were followed, you might have difficulty proving that ulterior motives were involved. And if this is a small business, remember that the owner may have personally approved the move.

Finally, assuming that the sexual favors are a proven fact and the promotion was clearly bogus, do other colleagues find these events disturbing? If so, then a group meeting with the owner would have much greater impact than an anonymous note, because those often wind up in the trash.

Drug trafficking allegations against FedEx head to trial

AP

In this Jan. 5, 2016 photo, a FedEx truck drives past the skyline in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Two giants—the U.S. government and FedEx—are set to do battle in a federal court over the explosive claim that the shipping company knowingly delivered illegal prescription drugs such as Ambien from pill mills to dealers and addicts, some of whom died.

Fedex has denied the charges and says it only shipped what it believed were legal drugs from licensed pharmacies. Opening statements are scheduled to start Monday.

The trial—nearly two-years in the making—is unusual both for the government's decision to bring drug charges against a package delivery company and the lack of a settlement. Rival UPS Inc. paid $40 million in 2013 to resolve similar allegations that arose from a yearslong government crackdown on Internet pharmacies that ship drugs to customers without valid prescriptions.

The stakes are high for Memphis, Tennessee-based FedEx. Though no FedEx officials are facing prison time, the charges carry a potential fine of $1.6 billion.

"It's incredibly rare for there to be any trial in the prosecution of a corporation," said Brandon Garrett, a professor at the University of Virginia School of Law who studies corporate crime. "Many large corporations like Fedex have received deferred or non-prosecution deals where they avoid an indictment all together."

Prosecutors say FedEx starting in 2000 conspired with two Internet pharmacy organizations to ship powerful sleep aids, sedatives, painkillers and other drugs to customers who had not been physically examined by a doctor. FedEx continued to ship drugs from the pharmacy groups even as law enforcement officials shut down some of their affiliates, prosecutors allege.

The crux of the government's case is that FedEx knew the drugs were illegal and headed for dealers and addicts, but delivered them anyway. The company's drivers expressed safety concerns that FedEx trucks were being stopped on the road by online pharmacy customers demanding packages of pills and that the delivery address was a parking lot, school, or vacant home where several carloads of people were waiting for their drugs, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Feds consider whether to shut for-profit college watchdog

BOSTON (AP)—Federal education officials are deciding whether to shut down the nation's biggest accreditor of for-profit colleges over allegations that it overlooked deception by some of its schools.

The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools is meant to be a watchdog for hundreds of for-profit schools, wielding the stamp of approval that colleges need to receive federal money. It's one of many accreditors authorized by the U.S. Education Department to ensure the quality of schools. But the nonprofit is being accused of employing lax standards and failing to stop schools from preying on students.

Institutions that have operated under the group's certification include the Corinthian College chain, which closed in 2015 amid fraud allegations, and the ITT Technical Institute chain, which now faces federal charges of fraud. Even after the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau began investigating both in 2013, the council found no major problems during its own reviews. In 2014, it included two Corinthian schools on its annual "honor roll."

"If accrediting agencies aren't willing to stand up against colleges that are breaking the law, colleges that are cheating their students, then I don't know what good they do, and I sure don't know why we would let them determine which colleges are eligible for federal dollars," Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said at a congressional hearing on Corinthian last year.

At least 17 colleges certified by the council have been subject to state or federal investigations, according to an analysis by the Center for American Progress, a liberal public policy organization in Washington. Over the past three years, those schools received more than $5.7 billion in federal money, the group said.

Attorneys general in more than a dozen states, along with other critics, want the Education Department to strip the council of its authority to accredit schools. The council is up for its regular review this month; it was last approved in 2013.

"This is an outfit that is in the business of sustaining and aiding and abetting with fraud and abuse," said Barmak Nassirian, a federal lobbyist for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. "It's like a consumer fraud dream come true."

Private Buffett lunch goes to highest bidder for over $3.4M

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—For the second time, an anonymous bidder has agreed to pay more than $3.4 million for a private lunch with billionaire Warren Buffett, with the auction proceeds going to a San Francisco homeless charity.

The bid of $3,456,789 from Friday night's winner ties the record highest from 2012, when a bidder also paid $3,456,789 to become the most expensive individual charity item ever sold on eBay.

The weeklong eBay auction to raise money for the Glide Foundation began Sunday and wrapped up Friday night. By midmorning Friday, the bidding reached more than $2.6 million, nearly $300,000 higher than last year's winning bid by Beijing-based Dalian Zeus Entertainment Co.

Six of the past eight winners paid more than $2 million to dine with Buffett, the investor who leads the Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate.

Buffett has raised more than $20 million for Glide. The lunch auctions began after Buffett's first wife, Susie, showed him the charity, where she had been volunteering. Susie Buffett died in 2004, but the connection between Warren Buffett and Glide's founders has endured.

Buffett has praised the foundation's approach in providing meals, health care, job training, rehabilitation and housing support to the poor and homeless.

"I am proud to be part of something that has directly benefited so many people in need," Buffett said ahead of the auction. "Glide is a bridge for thousands of people on the brink of despair, helping them achieve dignity and opportunity by providing them with basic services."

Nation

Worst mass shooting in US history: 50 slain at gay nightclub

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—It had been an evening of drinking, dancing and drag shows. After hours of revelry, the party-goers crowding the gay nightclub known as the Pulse took their last sips before the place closed.

That's when authorities say Omar Mateen emerged, carrying an AR-15 and spraying the helpless crowd with bullets. Witnesses said he fired relentlessly—20 rounds, 40, then 50 and more. In such tight quarters, the bullets could hardly miss. He shot at police. He took hostages.

When the gunfire finally stopped, 50 people were dead and dozens more were critically wounded in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Mateen, who law enforcement officials said had pledged allegiance to Islamic State in a 911 call around the time of the attack, died in a gun battle with SWAT team members.

Authorities immediately began investigating whether the assault was an act of terrorism and probing the background of Mateen, a 29-year-old American citizen from Fort Pierce, Florida, who had worked as a security guard. The gunman's father recalled that his son recently got angry when he saw two men kissing in Miami and said that might be related to the assault.

Thirty-nine of the dead were killed at the club, and 11 people died at hospitals, Mayor Buddy Dyer said.

Jon Alamo had been dancing at the Pulse for hours when he wandered into the club's main room just in time to see the gunman. "You ever seen how Marine guys hold big weapons, shooting from left to right? That's how he was shooting at people," he said.

"My first thought was, oh my God, I'm going to die," Alamo said. "I was praying to God that I would live to see another day."

AP

An armed police officer stands guard outside the Stonewall Inn, Sunday, June 12, 2016, in New York.

Pulse patron Eddie Justice texted his mother, Mina: "Mommy I love you. In club they shooting." About 30 minutes later, hiding in a bathroom, he texted her: "He's coming. I'm gonna die." As Sunday wore on, she awaited word on his fate.

At least 53 people were hospitalized, most in critical condition, and a surgeon at Orlando Regional Medical Center said the death toll was likely to climb.

The previous deadliest mass shooting in the U.S. was the 2007 attack at Virginia Tech, where a student killed 32 people before killing himself.

Mateen's family was from Afghanistan, and he was born in New York. His family later moved to Florida, authorities said.

His ex-wife, Sitora Yusufiy, told reporters that her former husband was bipolar and "mentally unstable."

Mateen was short-tempered and had a history with steroids, she said in remarks televised from Boulder, Colorado. She described him as religious but not radical. He wanted to be a police officer and applied to a police academy, but she had no details.

The couple was together for only four months, and the two had no contact for the last seven or eight years, she said.

A law enforcement official said the gunman made a 911 call from the club in which he professed allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The official was familiar with the investigation, but was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The extremist group did not officially claim responsibility for the attack, but the IS-run Aamaq news agency cited an unnamed source as saying the attack was carried out by an Islamic State fighter.

Even if the attacker supported IS, it was unclear whether the group planned or knew of the attack beforehand.

Mateen was not unknown to law enforcement: In 2013, he made inflammatory comments to co-workers and was interviewed twice, according to FBI agent Ronald Hopper, who called the interviews inconclusive. In 2014, Hopper said, officials found that Mateen had ties to an American suicide bomber, but the agent described the contact as minimal, saying it did not constitute a threat at the time.

Asked if the gunman had a connection to radical Islamic terrorism, Hopper said authorities had "suggestions that individual has leanings towards that."

Mateen purchased at least two firearms legally within the last week or so, according to Trevor Velinor of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

In a separate incident, an Indiana man armed with three assault rifles and chemicals used to make explosives was arrested Sunday in Southern California and told police he was headed to a Los Angeles-area gay pride parade.

The Orlando shooting started about 2 a.m., with more than 300 people inside the Pulse.

"He had an automatic rifle, so nobody stood a chance," said Jackie Smith, who saw two friends next to her get shot. "I just tried to get out of there."

At 2:09 a.m., Pulse posted on its Facebook page: "Everyone get out of Pulse and keep running."

Club-goer Rob Rick said the shooting started just as "everybody was drinking their last sip."

When he heard shots, Rick dropped to the ground and crawled toward a DJ booth. A bouncer knocked down a partition between the club area and an area where only workers were allowed. People were then able to escape through the back of the club.

Mateen exchanged gunfire with 14 police officers at the club, and took hostages at one point. In addition to the assault rifle, the shooter also had a handgun and some sort of "suspicious device," the police chief said. About 5 a.m., authorities sent in a SWAT team to rescue the remaining club-goers, Police Chief John Mina said.

At first, officers mistakenly thought the gunman had strapped explosives to the dead after a bomb robot sent back images of a battery part next to a body, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said. That prevented paramedics from going in until authorities determined the battery was something that fell out of an exit sign or a smoke detector, he said.

The robot was sent in after SWAT team members put explosive charges on a wall and an armored vehicle knocked it down in an effort to rescue hostages.

Just before 6 a.m., the Pulse posted an update on its Facebook: "As soon as we have any information, we will update everyone. Please keep everyone in your prayers as we work through this tragic event. Thank you for your thoughts and love."

Authorities were looking into whether the shooter acted alone, according to Danny Banks, an agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Restaurant General Manager (1)

Classification: Full-Time, Exempt, 50 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Area General Manager (AGM)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prioritize, directs and coordinates the activities of the restaurant to continually strengthen its Brand position and maximize its sales and profitability.

Essential Accountabilities
- People:
  - Achieves management staffing and development goals to plan
  - Has active succession plan in place for all positions
  - Improves employee morale through monitoring and showing urgency in caring for employees.
  - Improves staff performance through frequent personal and team coaching
  - Reduces incidences and claims by making safety everyone's top priority
  - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financials:
  - Achieves sales and profit targets to plan
  - Corrects daily financial deficiencies with urgency.
  - Drives year-over-year growth in sales and profit
- Operations:
  - Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
  - Raises the bar in operational execution
- Assets:
  - Corrects all asset deficiencies with urgency
  - Eliminates any potential for liability with urgency
- Availability
  - Open availability.
  - Minimum 5 day, 50 hour work week.
  - Vehicle required.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Required Skills
- Analytical: Able to analyze reports and correct deficient areas efficiently.
- Problem Solving: Able to implement TOSIDPAR problem solving techniques to achieve desired results.
- Organization & Planning: Able to organize priorities and develop/execute plans achieving desired results.
- Coaching: Able to develop the skills of subordinates to perform at a higher level
- Team Building: Able to stabilize staffing and build team bench.

Education/Experience
High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Assistant Restaurant General Manager (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 40-45 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities
The Assistant Restaurant General Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The ARGM assists the RGM in the achievement of the people, financial and operational goals of the restaurant.

Essential Accountabilities
- People:
  - Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
  - Assists RGM in monitoring/ improving employee morale
  - Personally coaches staff
  - Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
  - Ensures compliance with all applicable laws
- Financial
  - Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan.
  - Displays urgency to correct daily financial control deficiencies
  - Strives to drive year-upon-year growth in sales and profits
- Operations
  - Delivers/ improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards
  - Raises the bar in operational execution
- Assets:
  - Ensures facilities are maintained to franchise standard on a daily basis
  - Displays awareness of asset deficiencies and urgency to correct them
  - Displays awareness and urgency to eliminate any potential for liability
- Availability
  - Open availability.
  - Minimum 5 day, 40 - 45 hour work week.
  - Vehicle required.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Shift Manager (2)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Assistant Restaurant General Manager (ARGM)
Restaurant General Manager (RGM)

Summary of Responsibilities
The Shift Manager reports directly to the Restaurant General Manager. The SM assists the RGM in the achievement of the restaurant's people, operational and financial goals.

Essential Accountabilities
- People
  - Assists RGM in achieving restaurant's staffing and development goals
  - Assists RGM in monitoring/improving employee morale
  - Personally coaches staff
  - Ensures safety is everyone's top priority
  - Ensures compliance to all applicable laws
- Financial
  - Assists RGM in achieving sales and profits to plan
  - Displays urgency in correcting daily financial control deficiencies
- Operations
  - Delivers/improves delivery of QSC to franchise operational standards.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma and previous management experience required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Delivery Driver (7)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities
Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions
- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma preferred.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai • Closing Date: June 21, 2016

Asia

Bangladesh arrests over 5K in crackdown on extremists

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police in Bangladesh said Sunday that they have arrested more than 5,000 criminal suspects in the past few days as they continue a nationwide crackdown to try and stop a growing wave of brutal attacks on minorities and activists.

Since the crackdown began on Thursday, police have arrested 5,324 people, including 85 suspected Islamist radicals, said police spokesman Kamrul Ahsan. The majority of those arrested have petty criminal records. More arrests are expected through this week.

At least 18 people, including atheist bloggers, foreign aid workers and religious minorities, have been killed in attacks over the last two years. In separate incidents last week, two Hindus were fatally attacked. The attacks have alarmed the international community and raised questions about whether Bangladesh's secular government can protect minorities and secular writers and intellectuals in the Muslim-majority nation.

The crackdown began four days after the wife of a police superintendent who led drives against Islamist militants and drug cartels was shot and stabbed to death in the southeastern city of Chittagong. The killing caused a furor among Bangladesh's political establishment, many of whom considered her as one of their own.

Days after that attack, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vowed to root out radicals and defeat their bid to establish Islamic rule in the country.

Authorities have arrested suspects in some of the 18 attacks, mostly low-level operatives accused of following orders to carry out attacks, but none has been prosecuted. Police have said they are waiting until investigations are complete before taking any suspects to court.

Almost all the attacks have been claimed by transnational Islamist extremist groups, including the Islamic State group and al-Qaida affiliates. The killing Friday of a Hindu ashram worker in northern Bangladesh was also claimed by IS, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activity online.

Hasina's government, however, says transnational terror groups have no presence in the South Asian nation of 160 million. It blames the attacks on domestic groups aligned with political opposition parties, though it has presented no evidence of such a campaign and the opposition denies the allegations.

Explosion at Shanghai's main international airport injures 4

SHANGHAI (AP)—A small explosion at a check-in area of Shanghai's main international airport injured four people Sunday but did not cause any disruption to flights, officials said.

The blast at Pudong International Airport, China's second-busiest, occurred at around 2:20 p.m. and appeared to have been caused by some sort of homemade explosive, the airport's management said on its verified microblog account.

It said the four injured people were taken to a hospital but gave no word about their condition. There was no disruption to flights into or out of the airport, the management said, although police and internal security troops cordoned off the area and checked for additional explosives.

Ni Bowen, who was waiting to check into his Philippine Airlines flight when the explosion happened, said passengers ran for safety after a loud bang rocked the hall.

"At that moment, a beer bottle filled with white smoke rolled right by my feet. I was scared and made off at once," said Ni, 30, who works for a machinery manufacturer.

One of the injured, a Chinese man, sustained a severe neck injury, China's official Xinhua News Agency said, citing hospital officials. It said the injury may have been self-inflicted.

Also injured was a 53-year-old Philippine man. The two others who were hurt were Chinese, including a 67-year-old man and 64-year-old woman who suffered injuries to their heads, hands and legs, Xinhua said.

Pudong airport serves international flights but is also a hub for two major domestic airlines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan officials: 6 police killed in battle with IS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan officials say six police officers, including a district police chief, have been killed by gunmen affiliated with the Islamic State group in the restive eastern Nangarhar province, which borders Pakistan. Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor, says that IS-affiliated insurgents attacked the administrative headquarters in Haska Mina district at 2:00 a.m. Saturday. He says 15 IS fighters were killed and seven wounded in the battle that followed. Hazrat Hussain Mashreqiwal, spokesman for the Nangarhar police chief, says six police officers were wounded. Nangarhar has long been plagued by insurgent groups. Last year militants there claimed allegiance to IS and the Taliban sent fighters against them.

2 killed by gas leakage in Indian aircraft carrier

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian navy sailor and a civilian worker were killed Friday by a toxic gas leak in the sewage plant on board India's sole aircraft carrier, a navy spokesman said. Capt. D.K. Sharma said the Russian-built "INS Vikramaditya" carrier has been undergoing maintenance work at a naval base in southern India. There was no other damage to the carrier. INS Vikramaditya is at present the only aircraft with the Indian navy after the recent decommissioning of another carrier. Another aircraft carrier "INS Virat" is scheduled for commissioning by the end of 2018.

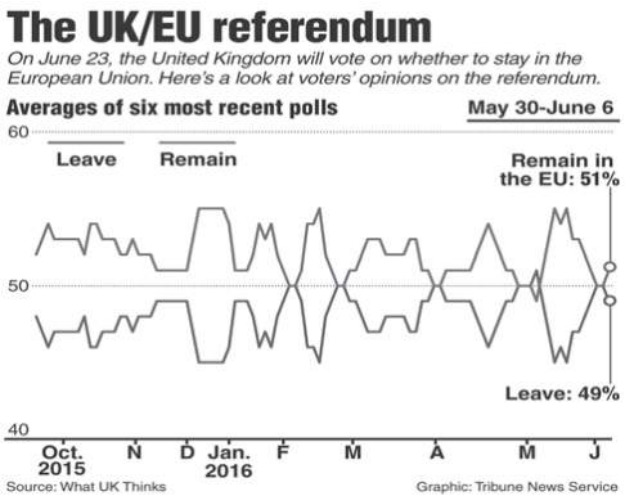
Thai court affirms jail term for Red Shirt leader

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's Court of Appeals on Friday affirmed a two-year prison sentence for a prominent anti-government activist convicted of defaming the country's prime minister in 2009. The lawyer for Jatuporn Prompan said he was granted release on bail of 200,000 baht ($5,680) pending a further appeal to the Supreme Court. Lawyer Winyat Chatmontree said Jatuporn is not allowed to leave the country without court permission. Jatuporn is a leader of the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship, also known as the Red Shirts, which supports former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a military coup in 2006. It opposes the current ruling junta and advocates voting against a draft constitution in an upcoming referendum.

World

In Syria's Aleppo, divided locals share fear of total siege

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's largest city, Aleppo, used to be the country's economic locomotive but four years of grinding battles have rendered it almost uninhabitable. Pummeled by bombs and rocket fire, residents on both sides of this divided metropolis have experienced severe water and power shortages, soaring living costs, and collapsing public services.



In 2012, the city split between rebels and forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad. Now the prospect of a total siege looms over both sides.

As government forces mount attacks to close the only road to the opposition-held areas in the east of the city, rebels outside Aleppo are slowly constricting the passage to the western, government-held side.

After a two month lull following an internationally-brokered cease-fire in February, the death toll is rising on both sides. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, recorded that 302 civilians in opposition neighborhoods have been killed in presumed Russian and government airstrikes since hostilities resumed on April 22. In that time, 236 civilians have been killed in indiscriminate shelling and rocket attacks by the rebels.

Locals across the city worry that a day will come when they can no longer go in or out of their neighborhoods.

"People are saying 'goodbye' as though they don't know whether they will see each other again," said an Aleppo native who has fled to Lebanon and last visited her home, in the government-held side, in May. Like many others who spoke to The Associated Press, she asked for anonymity for fear of being stopped at a checkpoint and questioned for speaking to the media.

Boisterous UK media fuel EU myths, but is anyone listening?

LONDON (AP)—Britain, the European Union is coming for your bananas. And your kettles. Meanwhile, foreign criminals roam Britain's streets and migrants besiege its borders.

That, at least, is the impression conveyed by some British newspapers as voters prepare to decide whether to remain in the European Union.

Much of the British press views the EU as a meddlesome nuisance, showering the country in bureaucratic directives and sapping its sovereign power. Add public concern about mass immigration and the migrant crisis, and it means Britain's EU referendum campaign is being waged amid a perfect storm of Euroskepticism.

The tabloid Daily Express recently warned that "Migrants pay just 100 pounds to invade Britain" and claimed the EU is a "threat to your pension" and even wants "to ban our kettles." The Daily Mail has told readers that "1M more migrants are on their way" and profiled "the Albanian double killer" living openly in Britain.

Strident anti-EU headlines are commonplace across a spectrum of British newspapers, from the tabloid Sun, Express and Daily Mail to the higher-toned Times and the Conservative-backing Daily Telegraph. Of Britain's dozen or so national dailies, only the left-leaning Guardian and the business-minded Financial Times are firmly on the "remain" side of the EU debate.

British broadcasters are governed by rules about impartiality in their political coverage, but the rambunctious, partisan press has no such shackles. British newspapers have spent decades shaping the battlefield on which the referendum fight is being waged.

Uganda: Army officers arrested over plot against president

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Dozens of military officers, including some senior ones, have been arrested over an alleged plot to overthrow long-time President Yoweri Museveni, a Ugandan military official said Sunday.

More officers are being arrested over alleged acts of subversion following the detention Saturday of a colonel with the country's air forces, military spokesman Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda told The Associated Press.

Ankunda said the officers have suspected links to an opposition lawmaker, Michael Kabaziguruka, who is being questioned by the police over similar allegations.

Kabaziguruka is a close ally of opposition leader Kizza Besigye, who was charged with treason following a disputed presidential election in February. Besigye refused to accept the official results that gave victory to Museveni. Besigye claimed that he had won the election. Election observers said the polls were marred by many irregularities.

Museveni has held power here since 1986, when he seized authority at the end of a guerrilla war against an elected government. Many of his former bush-war colleagues, including Besigye, have since broken ranks with Museveni, accusing him of becoming an authoritarian ruler. Others claim that Museveni wants to rule for life or plans to have his son succeed him, charges he denies.

The charges pressed against Besigye, a four-time presidential challenger who once served in Museveni's government, have been criticized by some as an attempt to intimidate the opposition at a time when Museveni's popular support is waning, especially in urban areas.

Focus

Friends, family remember victims of Florida shooting

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and DON BABWIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A gunman wielding an assault-type rifle and a handgun opened fire inside a crowded gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, early Sunday, killing at least 50 people in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Here are stories of some of the victims.

Edward Sotomayor, 34, was a caring, energetic man known for wearing a silly top hat on cruises, according to David Sotomayor, who said the two discovered they were cousins after meeting at Orlando's annual Gay Days festival around a decade ago.

David Sotomayor, who lives in Chicago, told The Associated Press Sunday that Edward worked for a company that held gay cruises and often traveled to promote the company's events.

"He was just always part of the fun," David Sotomayor said.

The two texted regularly and kept in touch, last seeing each other earlier this year at a filming of the television reality show "RuPaul's Drag Race," David Sotomayor said.

David Sotomayor is a drag queen who appeared on a season of the show using the name "Jade." He said Edward Sotomayor supported him and often sent him Facebook messages. They last exchanged messages late last week.

"You never think that's going to be the last time you speak to him," David Sotomayor said. "It's just heartbreaking to know it just can happen anytime."

Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22, told his cousin Robert Guerrero he was gay about two years ago, but he was worried about how the rest of his family would react. He did not tell them until just before the beginning of this year. And when he did?

"They were very accepting," said Guerrero, 19. "As long as he was happy, they were OK with it."

On Sunday morning, after learning that so many people had died at a gay nightclub, Pulse, that his cousin had gone to once in a while, Guerrero started to become concerned. Later in the day, his fears were realized when the family learned that Guerrero was identified as one of the victims.

Robert Guerrero said his cousin worked as a telemarketer and in recent months he started attending college at the University of Central Florida. Guerrero said his cousin didn't quite know what he wanted to study, but he was happy to be in school. And he was happy in a relationship with a person his relatives came to regard as a member of the family, Guerrero said.

AP

A man holds a candle and a rainbow flag during a vigil in memory of the victims of the Orlando mass shooting, Sunday, June 12, 2016, in Miami Beach, Fla.A gunman opened fire inside a crowded gay nightclub early Sunday, before dying in a gunfight with SWAT officers, police said.

"He was always this amazing person (and) he was like a big brother to me," he said of his cousin. "He was never the type to go out to parties, would rather stay home and care for his niece and nephew."

Stanley Almodovar III's mother had prepared a tomato-and-cheese dip for him to eat when he came home from his night out.

Instead, Rosalie Ramos was awakened by a call at 2 a.m. Sunday telling her something had happened.

Ramos told the Orlando Sentinel her son, a 23-year-old pharmacy technician, posted a Snapchat video of himself singing and laughing on his way to Pulse nightclub.

"I wish I had that (video) to remember him forever," she told the newspaper.

A friend, Hazel Ramirez, told the Washington Post she also saw a video from Almodovar on Snapchat and learned Sunday afternoon what had happened.

Ramirez described Almodovar as "kind, but sassy," and someone who was comfortable with his own sexual identity.

"He was so proud of who he was," she told the Post. "He would do his makeup better than anyone else. It was so easy to be myself with him.

Shooter was body builder, guard; once wanted to be cop

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP)—He was a body builder and a security guard, a religious man who attended the local mosque and wanted to become a police officer.

Early Sunday, 29-year-old Omar Mateen opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, leaving 50 people dead and 53 wounded, police said.

Mateen was the son of an Afghan immigrant who had a talk show in the United States, the nature of which was not entirely clear: A former Afghan official said the program was pro-Taliban and a former colleague said it was enthusiastically pro-American.

He attended evening prayer services at the city's Islamic Center three to four times a week, most recently with his young son, said Imam Syed Shafeeq Rahman. Although he was not very social, he also showed no signs of violence, Rahman said. He said he last saw Mateen on Friday.

"When he finished prayer he would just leave," Rahman told The Associated Press. "He would not socialize with anybody. He would be quiet. He would be very peaceful."

He was also bipolar, Mateen's ex-wife, Sitora Yusufiy, told reporters in Boulder, Colorado.

"He was mentally unstable and mentally ill," Yusufiy said. Although records show the couple didn't divorce for two years after the marriage, Yusiufiy said she was actually only with Mateen for four months because he was abusive. She said he would not let her speak to her family and that family members had to come and literally pull her out of his arms.

Authorities immediately began investigating whether Sunday's attack was an act of terrorism. A law enforcement official said the gunman made a 911 call from the nightclub professing allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The law enforcement official is familiar with the investigation but was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Yusufiy said she was "devastated, shocked, started shaking and crying" when she heard about the shooting, but she attributed the violence to Mateen's mental illness, not any alliance with terrorist groups.

Rahman agreed.

"My personal opinion is that this has nothing to do with ISIS," he said.

Seddique Mir Mateen, the father of the alleged shooter, is a life insurance salesman who started a group in 2010 called Durand Jirga, Inc., according to Qasim Tarin, a businessman from California who was a Durand Jirga board member. The name refers to the Durand line, the long disputed border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Tarin said Seddique Mir Mateen had a television show on which they discussed issues facing Afghanistan.

"It's shocking," he said about the shooting. "(Omar Mateen's) father loves this country."

Some of Seddique Mir Mateen's shows were taped and later posted on YouTube. During one episode, a sign in the background read: "Long live the U.S.A! Long live Afghanistan. ... Afghans are the best friends to the U.S.A."

But a former Afghan official said the "Durand Jirga Show" appears on Payam-e-Afghan, a California-based channel that supports ethnic solidarity with the Afghan Taliban, which are mostly Pashtun. Viewers from Pashtun communities in the United States regularly call in to the channel to espouse support for Pashtun domination of Afghanistan over the nation's minorities, including Hazaras, Tajiks and Uzbeks, the official said.

The "Durand Jirga Show" expresses support for the Taliban, has an anti-Pakistan slant, complains about foreigners in Afghanistan and criticizes U.S. actions there, the official said. Seddique Mir Mateen lavished praise on current Afghan President Ashraf Ghani when he appeared on the show in January 2014, but he has since denounced the Ghani government, according to the official, who said that on Saturday, Seddique Mateen appeared on the show dressed in military fatigues and used his program to criticize the current Afghan government.

He also announced on that show that he would run in the next Afghan presidential election, said the official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because he did not want to be linked to coverage of the shooting.

In 2013, Omar Mateen made inflammatory comments to co-workers, and he was interviewed twice, FBI agent Ronald Hopper said. He called those interviews inconclusive. In 2014, Hopper said, officials found that Mateen had ties to an American suicide bomber. He described the contact as minimal, saying it did not constitute a threat at the time.

Mateen purchased at least two firearms legally within the last week or so, according to Trevor Velinor of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Mateen had no criminal record. Yusufiy said he wanted to be a police officer and had applied to the police academy. Mateen was a security guard at the G4S company, which identifies itself on its website as "the leading global integrated security company."

Rahman said he knew Mateen and his family since the shooter was a young boy. Playful as a child, he became more serious as an adult, Rahman said. He spoke both English and Farsi, and was into body building. He was not, as far as the imam could see, someone who would ever commit such a gruesome act of mass violence.

"It was totally unexpected," Rahman said.

Overdrive

Auto review: 2017 Mercedes-Benz C300 Coupe a pleasure worth pursuing

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Have American motorists forgotten the joys of extravagance? Given the preponderance of utility vehicles and pickup trucks, it seems we have.

Consider the Mercedes-Benz most popular in the U.S.: the compact C-Class.

The latest rendition of the C-Class sedan launched in 2014 and was followed the next year by its sibling, the GLC crossover utility vehicle. Both will vastly outsell the newest version of the C-Class family: the 2017 C300 Coupe, and that's a pity.

Unlike the CLA and CLS "four-door" coupes that wear the three-pointed star, this is a true two-door, just like the E-Class, S-Class and AMG GTS coupes. And, like them, the C300 Coupe fulfills an emotional need mostly felt by younger buyers and women.

Given its launch in the middle of a model cycle, the previous generation C300 Coupe was fairly conservative, lacking the designer panache typical of Mercedes-Benz two-doors. Unlike that model, the new coupe is purpose-built as a coupe, which explains its expanding waistline. It's grown 4 inches in length, 3 inches in wheelbase, 2 inches in width and is slightly lower in overall height, endowing the C-Class Coupe with the long, wide and low proportion that gives this model an evocative presence good enough for the runway.

The added length blends seamlessly with softly assertive sheet metal that lends the car the elegantly aggressive look that's classic Mercedes-Benz. Helping matters on the test car was the optional Sport Package, which adds AMG styling elements such as the single bar grille, larger front air intakes, a chrome-accented grille, 19-inch AMG wheels with high-performance tires and front brakes with perforated discs. Inside, sporting touches include a flat bottom steering wheel, black headliner, aluminum pedals, AMG floor mats and an instrument panel finished with topstitching. Most importantly, it adds a sport suspension with quicker steering.

The Coupe's suspension is based on the sedan's, but it's tuned for a much sportier response. The same is true of the steering, which is also much quicker than the sedan's, and ride height is slightly lower. A $1,200 optional Airmatic air suspension provides the best of both worlds, providing an adept balance of comfort and sport that one expects of a luxury ride, something absent from the base-level, steel suspension.

Powering the car is a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder that's used in the C-Class sedan as well. It's rated at 241 horsepower and 273 pound-feet of torque, with both these figures representing 20 percent bumps over the old coupe. In fact, the new four-cylinder produces as much torque as the old model's six-cylinder engine, but its available at 1,300 rpm, versus the six-cylinder's 3,500 rpm. As a result, performance has improved, with a zero to 60 mph run taking 5.9 seconds.

All-wheel drive is now available with the four-cylinder engine and is the powerplant most buyers will choose. It's a boon to buyers in chillier climes.

But the feature that drivers will truly appreciate is Dynamic Select, a feature that adjusts the car's performance parameters based on driving conditions and your mood. There are four different drive moods—or, um—modes including Eco, Comfort, Sport and Sport-Plus as well as an Individual setting, which allows for customization. The system does have a dramatic effect on the car's personality, taking it from mild to wild. The car reverts to Comfort on start-up, although it would be better if stayed on the last setting the driver selected.

Regardless, it's quite fun. While not the quickest coupe out there, it's more than fast enough to get your yay-yas out, with quick shifts delivered from a seven-speed automatic transmission. And while the Sport Package does add a measure of sporting nature to the car, the forthcoming AMG C-Class models are the true choice for those who need a Mercedes-Benz with a truly fierce performance capability.

Being a Mercedes-Benz, there's a boatload of active and passive safety technology, including a standard radar-based collision warning system that can autonomously brake the car to avoid or mitigate a collision. The car also offers optional Distronic Plus, which offers autonomous steering assist as well as Stop and Go Plus that autonomously drives the car in stop and go traffic.

Given that the Coupe is based on the sedan, its interior is similar, so there are few surprises.

The sport seats with integrated headrests provide exceptional support in long drives, while the automated seatbelt presenters, a Mercedes-Benz tradition since 1981, make living with the Coupe just that much easier. The overall ambience will not disappoint, as the luxuriously designed cabin feels indulgent, although Mercedes-Benz's COMAND infotainment system can be clunky to use at times.

In the fall, Mercedes-Benz will launch the AMG C-Class cousins, the C43 Coupe and Cabriolet, with a 3.0-liter twin-turbocharged six-cylinder engine with 362 pound-feet of torque, and a zero to 60 mph time of 4.6 seconds, and the C63 and C63 S, with up to 503 horsepower, and the only twin-turbocharged V-8 in the segment. AMG variants will boast a wider track and body than its tamer cousins.

But these milder, opulent base models will more than satisfy most drivers, for these are cars that fulfill a driver's indulgent need for driving fun and designer style. And that beats a dull old sedan or SUV any day of the week.

At least, that's what American drivers once thought.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base prices: $42,650-$44,650
Engines: 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
Horsepower: 241
Torque: 273 pound-feet
Fuel type: Premium
EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 23 mpg/30 mpg
Wheelbase: 111.8 inches
Length: 184.5 inches
Cargo capacity: 10.5 cubic feet
Curb weight: 3,638-3,770 pounds
NHTSA rating: Not rated

2017 Mercedes-Benz C300 Coupe. TNS

Under the Hood: Plenty of quality midsize cars to choose from

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q My sister is looking for a safe and dependable car for herself and her husband, who had a stroke and can no longer drive. It would have to be easy to enter and exit. It would also be nice if it did not need too much maintenance. Their old Jaguar is in the shop all the time, and someone recently told them to get a Ford.

It would be nice if you had a list. I saw some online, but each was sponsored by a manufacturer. (Like asking a politician, for whom should I vote?) I hope enough readers have asked this question. I enjoy learning about cars and maintenance in your column. I hope to see your response soon.

— Arlene H.

A Arlene, the midsized cars now available are smarter, better built and more efficient than ever. There are so many to choose from! Here's my list of great cars to consider: Mazda6, Toyota Camry, Honda Accord, Chevy Malibu and Ford Fusion. For more luxury, perhaps consider the Audi A6, Cadillac CTS and Lexus ES. For a little more room, check out the Chevy Impala, Toyota Avalon, Buick LaCrosse and Ford Taurus, all of which are contenders. I've driven all of these. They're all rather impressive and have received high scores from savvy evaluators. There are certainly many more I didn't mention that could also be great choices. Picking the perfect car really boils down to checking it out in person and trying out the features that are most important to you.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q After a check engine light goes on, is it safe to drive the car? If so, how far? My daughter's car has this problem, and she's a procrastinator.

— Susan M.

A There are dozens of reasons a malfunction indicator lamp would illuminate, and the causes can vary widely in severity. The cause could be as simple as a loose gas cap, and at the other end of the severity scale, a cylinder misfire, severe air-fuel ratio fault, or exhaust gas recirculation malfunction. These could lead to engine damage if not addressed fairly quickly. Somewhere in the middle of the severity scale would be a sensor or component fault that the management system is able to identify and work around.

It's tough to give a reliable answer. If the vehicle runs or shifts irregularly, it should be fixed immediately, particularly if engine roughness is noted. If performance is apparently normal and the vehicle is driven under non-demanding conditions, perhaps a week is the prudent limit for getting it looked at. Retrieving the stored diagnostic code with an inexpensive code reader and looking it up on www.obdii.com can provide a general idea of the cause.

I received a couple of suggestions that would sweeten up my response to setting the parking brake and shifting to park. Because some vehicles have an inch or so of creep after the parking brake is applied, it's not a bad idea to let the vehicle settle in against the parking brake by releasing your foot from the brake pedal prior to shifting into park. I like this also because you're proving the parking brake's ability to hold the vehicle in place.

ABOUT THE WRITER
Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

AP

This image released by Warner Bros. shows, from left, Vera Farmiga, Simon McBurney, Abhi Sinha, Frances O'Connor and Patrick Wilson in a scene from the New Line Cinema thriller, "The Conjuring 2."

'Conjuring 2' scares up $40.4M, BREAKING SEQUEL SLUMP

NEW YORK (AP)—The recent slump of sequels at the box office finally caught a break with "The Conjuring 2," a horror sequel that topped weekend theaters with an estimated $40.4 million.

The Warner Bros. film, in which Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson play married paranormal investigators, opened nearly on par with its 2013 original, which was also directed by James Wan. That film debuted with $41.8 million and went on to earn $319 million globally.

The big-budget videogame adaptation "Warcraft," a co-production between Universal and Legendary that reportedly cost $160 million to make, came in second with $24.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Though it effectively bombed in North America, "Warcraft" has been a hit overseas, particularly in China.

In China, the film, taken from the "World of Warcraft" video game franchise, has made a staggering $156 million in its first five days. That surpasses the foreign film release record of "Avengers: Age of Ultron," not to mention blockbusters like "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Why has "Warcraft," a poorly reviewed video game adaption, done so well in China? The game it's based on, "World of Warcraft," has long been especially popular there, even spawning a theme park. The film's Chinese release was also handled by Legendary, the production company bought earlier this year by China's entertainment and real estate powerhouse Dalian Wanda Group Co.

The Lionsgate magician caper "Now You See Me 2," starring Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo and Woody Harrelson, opened in third place with $23 million domestically. That's a drop from the original's $29.4 million debut. It eventually grossed $351.7 million worldwide.

The dip for "Now You See Me 2" was more in line with the diminishing results seen from recent poorly performing sequels. "Alice Through the Looking Glass," ''Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows" (last week's top film, which slid to fourth this weekend with $14.8 million), "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising," ''Ride Along 2" and "The Huntsman: Winter's War" have all done worse than their preceding films.

The streak didn't concern Warner Bros. for the release of "The Conjuring 2," studio distribution chief Jeff Goldstein said.

"We looked at the number of movies that didn't work and we said to ourselves: It's really the content of the films," Goldstein said. "While there seems to have been a few in a row, we didn't think it was a pattern that was systemic. We just thought it was about the movie, itself."

Instead, "The Conjuring" franchise has succeeded by broadening the horror audience with old-school frights and a higher quality than the genre typically sees. The sequel, which is set in a haunted London home, appealed to both younger and older moviegoers, and drew a roughly even split of males and females—a rarity for a horror film.

"There's seemingly been a spell cast over the second installments and 'The Conjuring,' I think, broke that spell," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "Just the overall quality won over the audience in a genre that's generally looked down upon from a critical perspective."

Unlike "Warcraft" or "Now You See Me 2," ''The Conjuring 2" had largely positive reviews going for it. Duncan Jones, the director of "Warcraft," took to Twitter on Friday to defend his film against the critical reaction. For those who didn't like the film he urged, "No worries, but please chill out. It's just a movie."

Next week, Pixar's "Finding Dory" will hope to continue the turn of fortune for sequels. The "Finding Nemo" sequel is expected to perhaps be Pixar's biggest opening ever.

"'Finding Dory' is going to further solidify the idea that it's not really sequel-itis, it's just more you have to be able to deliver the goods no matter what the movie is, whether it's a sequel, original or a reboot," Dergarabedian said. "You just need a good movie."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final three-day domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**The Conjuring 2**," $40.4 million *($50 million international).*
2. "**Warcraft**," $24.4 million *($185.8 million international).*
3. "**Now You See Me 2**," $23 million *($20.1 million international).*
4. "**Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows**," $14.8 million *($13.3 million international).*
5. "**X-Men: Apocalypse**," $10 million *($25 million international).*
6. "**Me Before You**," $9.2 million *($5.1 million international).*
7. "**The Angry Birds Movie**," $6.7 million *($10.4 million international).*
8. "**Alice Through the Looking Glass**," $5.5 million *($14.6 million international).*
9. "**Captain America: Civil War**," $4.3 million *($1.2 million international).*
10. "**The Jungle Book**," $2.7 million *($7.5 million international).*

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "**Warcraft**," $185.8 million.
2. "**The Conjuring 2**," $50 million.
3. "**X-Men: Apocalypse**," $25 million.
4. "**Now You See Me 2**," $20.1 million.
5. "**Alice Through the Looking Glass**," $14.6 million.
6. "**Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows**," $13.3 million.
7. "**The Angry Birds Movie**," $10.4 million.
8. "**The Jungle Book**," $7.5 million.
9. "**Money Monster**," $5.2 million.
10. "**Me Before You**," $5.1 million.

EA teases new 'Star Wars' games at E3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Electronic Arts is leaning heavily on The Force.

The video game publisher teased three forthcoming games set in the "Star Wars" universe Sunday at the Electronic Entertainment Expo.

The games include a new edition of "Star Wars Battlefront" inspired by the recent films from DICE and Motive Studios, an action-adventure game with an original story from Visceral Games and a third-person action game from Respawn Entertainment.

"They're channeling their talent and passion to bring you all-new experiences that will span many corners of the 'Star Wars' universe," said Jade Raymond, general manager at Motive Studios, of the developers working on all the "Star Wars" games.

EA stopped short of revealing more information or the new games' titles, but a promotional video showed Respawn developers working with motion-capture actors who were dueling with lightsabers. The video also featured imagery of a game developer using a PlayStation VR to pilot a virtual version of an X-Wing vessel.

"Star Wars Battlefront," last year's multiplayer shooter set during the original film trilogy, was the first title in Electronic Arts' 10-year deal with Disney and Lucasfilm to produce new "Star Wars" games. Other games EA hyped during its one-hour E3 news conference included the grappling-hook enhanced "Titanfall 2," the World War I-set shooter "Battlefield 1," the story-focused soccer simulator "FIFA 17" and the space-exploring saga "Mass Effect: Andromeda," which is set in an all-new realm.

"This is a galaxy where you are the alien," said Aaryn Flynn, general manager at "Mass Effect" developer BioWare.

The annual gathering of the game industry kicked off Sunday with EA's news conference and continues through Thursday.

EA abandoned its long-standing booth at the Los Angeles Convention Center this year for a rowdy event open to the public at the LA Live entertainment complex in downtown Los Angeles.

AP

This June 12, 2013 file photo shows Electronic Arts booth during the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles.

Spielberg, Lucas salute composer John Williams at AFI gala

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant considers him a muse. Harrison Ford says he elevates entertainment to art. Seth MacFarlane calls him "the single greatest talent working in Hollywood."

John Williams, creator of the iconic music from "Superman," ''Star Wars," ''Jaws," ''E.T." and "Jurassic Park," is also the first composer to receive the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award. He accepted the honor Thursday at a black-tie dinner at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre that's set to air as a TV special Wednesday night on TNT. Bryant, Ford and MacFarlane were among the stars celebrating Williams' contributions to cinema.

Steven Spielberg presented his longtime friend and collaborator with the award.

"Without John Williams, bikes don't really fly," Spielberg said. "Nor do brooms in Quidditch matches; nor do men in red capes. There is no Force. Dinosaurs don't walk the Earth... You take our movies, many of them about our most impossible dreams, and through your musical genius, you make them real and everlasting for billions and billions of people."

AP

Composer John Williams, left, poses with filmmaker Steven Spielberg at the 2016 AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute to Williams at the Dolby Theatre on Thursday, June 9, 2016, in Los Angeles.

Williams has scored more than 100 films and received an astounding 50 Oscar nominations. He also composed the theme songs for Sunday Night Football, NBC's "Nightly News" and the Olympics.

George Lucas said it was Williams' soaring score that "ensured that 'Star Wars' would live forever."

"And you did it again with 'Raiders of the Lost Ark,'" he said.

Bryant said he asked to meet with Williams in 2009 to learn how he approaches his work.

"I'm a passionate believer that everybody needs a muse, and John Williams is one of mine," said the recently retired Lakers star. "John's music achieved a level of perfection I wanted to reach on the basketball court."

Other stars feting the composer from the stage included Drew Barrymore, Tom Hanks, JJ Abrams, Bryce Dallas Howard and Will Ferrell, who wordlessly attempted to conduct the audience in song. Broadway star Idina Menzel was among the guests, and she stood and sang a few notes.

The 84-year-old Williams said that when he first learned he would be receiving AFI's highest honor, he thought, "I'm really much too young for a thing like this."

His career began in the 1950s as a paid pianist for Hollywood studios and thrives to this day. His latest composing credit is Spielberg's "The BFG," opening in July, and the next "Star Wars" installment.

Slain singer Grimmie's New Jersey hometown plans vigil in her honor

EVESHAM TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—The southern New Jersey town where Christina Grimmie grew up will hold a candlelight vigil to honor the singer who was fatally shot after a weekend concert in Florida.

Evesham Township Mayor Randy Brown says the vigil will be held at 8:45 p.m. Monday at the town's Memorial Complex.

The 22-year-old Grimmie was shot Friday night as she signed autographs after a show in Orlando.

Authorities say she apparently had no personal connection to the man who shot her. The gunman fatally shot himself after being tackled by her brother.

Grimmie was a YouTube star who was widely known from her appearances on NBC's "The Voice" two years ago.

Grimmie lived in Evesham, a small community about 20 miles from Philadelphia, before moving to Los Angeles in 2012.

AP

In this Oct. 25, 2013 file photo, Christina Grimmie performs in concert at the Bridgestone Arena, in Nashville, Tenn.

Production on deadly Arizona fire movie set to begin Monday

PHOENIX (AP)—The producers behind a movie about the elite firefighting team that lost 19 members in a 2013 Arizona wildfire assure the story focuses on the firefighters' dedication, not the way in which they died.

"Granite Mountain" is slated to start production Monday with a cast that includes Josh Brolin and Academy Award winner Jennifer Connelly, The Arizona Republic reported (http://bit.ly/28ohzgg).

The movie will be filming in Santa Fe, Los Alamos and several other cities in New Mexico through early September. It is slated to open in theaters in September 2017.

Producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura said the plot will focus on Eric Marsh, who led the crew, and Brendan McDonough, the only surviving hotshot crew member. He said it will not focus on tragedy or the exact details of the fire.

"This movie is about the lives of these people and what they were trying to put on the line, and what it meant to them to do what they were doing and what it meant to the community to have them doing it," he said.

Brolin will play Marsh, who was superintendent of the Granite Mountain Hotshot crew, with Connolly playing his wife, Amanda Marsh.

Other cast members include Miles Teller, Jeff Bridges, Taylor Kitsch and James Badge Dale. Director Joseph Kosinski said it is a story of "true heroism."

"The more I discovered about these men, their families, their relationships and where they came from, the more I was drawn into it," he said.

The real Amanda Marsh said it is important that the hotshots are portrayed as people, not just a tragedy.

"I want the world to understand what it is like to be a hotshot and what it is like to be a hotshot wife," she said. "Neither is easy. Both come with their own sense of deep responsibility and commitment to the job. I hope Eric's personality comes through and that people get a sense of who Eric was."

Confiscating phones may teach surly teens to show respect

DEAR ABBY: I'm the mother of two teenagers, ages 13 and 15. I am trying to teach them to do chores and help around the house, but all I get is attitude from them.

I try to explain that I didn't grow up with a dishwasher and I washed all the dishes by hand. Well, now that we have a dishwasher, they don't want to load or unload it either! I try not to spoil my kids, but I guess it's too late. Sometimes I get so frustrated that I just do the chores myself.

What am I doing wrong as a parent? My kids are either on their iPhone or iPad or Xbox. They have a better childhood than I ever had, but they don't understand. It's hurtful when their response is "Let me live," or "You don't understand anything," or "I can't wait to get out of the house and get away from you!" This is very hurtful, and I guess I just needed to vent to someone other than my husband. Thanks for letting me.

STRESSED-OUT MOM

DEAR MOM: You're welcome. Now, may I offer a suggestion? You should not be doing your teenagers' chores for them. Instead, start instituting consequences if they shirk their responsibilities. An effective consequence would be to confiscate their iPhone, iPad or Xbox if the chores aren't done when they're supposed to be. And if they talk disrespectfully to you—ditto!

DEAR ABBY: My son's fiancee set their wedding date without asking me if I could make it. I recently took a job on the West Coast. As a campground manager and new employee, I can't get time off Labor Day weekend to fly back to the East Coast for the wedding. (Labor Day is one of the big summer holidays for campgrounds.)

His fiancee has done other hurtful things in the past, and I can't help but doubt it was an oversight that I wasn't consulted before their wedding date was set. When I tried to talk to my son about it, I received the anticipated hostility I usually get from him.

My question to you is, should I pay for their caterer? I have given this son so much money over the years that I can't help but believe he's a user. Advice, please.

EXCLUDED OUT WEST

DEAR EXCLUDED: If your son had wanted you to be at his wedding, you would have been consulted before the date was set. His fiancee didn't consult you because that is probably the way your son wanted it. Under the circumstances, you should not pay for any of the wedding expenses. If you feel you must do something, send them a congratulatory card wishing them "a lifetime of happiness together." Period.

DEAR ABBY: If I am standing in line waiting for a friend to arrive at a store that's about to open for a sale, when my friend arrives, is it OK for her to join me where I've been holding the spot, or should we move to the back of the line so customers behind us don't feel like she is butting in?

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT

DEAR NO BUTTS: Lines for sales can be long, and people sometimes wait many hours to get into the stores. According to Emily Post, "Courteous people never break into line." It might be diplomatic to ask the person standing in back of you if he or she minds if your friend joins you. Some might object; others not.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

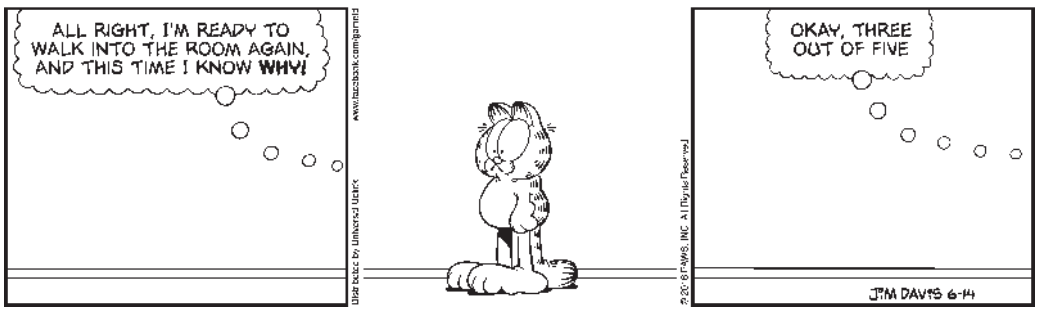
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THE RAIN STOPPED!
THIS IS THE BEST TIME TO GO WORMUCKING. LET'S GO!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S WHEN YOU WALK ON THE PAVEMENT AND MUCK ALL THE WORMS.
WATERSON

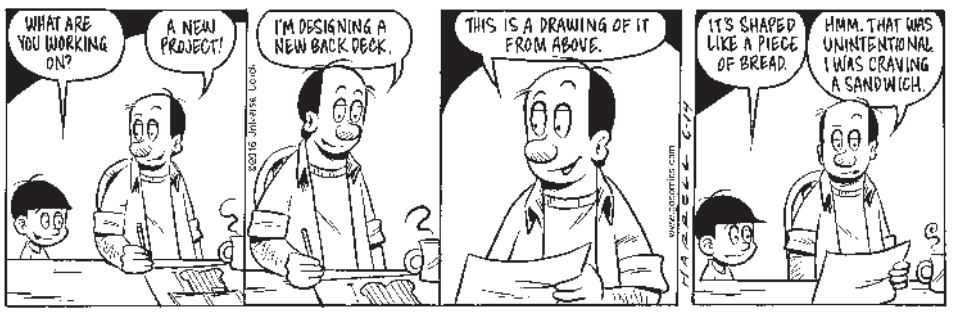
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
A NEW PROJECT!
I'M DESIGNING A NEW BACK DECK.
THIS IS A DRAWING OF IT FROM ABOVE.
IT'S SHAPED LIKE A PIECE OF BREAD.
HMM. THAT WAS UNINTENTIONAL. I WAS CRAVING A SANDWICH.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THE WEATHERMAN SAID THERE'S A TORNADO WARNING AND EVERYONE SHOULD SEEK SHELTER.
SEEK SHELTER?...
HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WATCHING TV OUT IN THEIR DRIVEWAY?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Active person
5 Atlas page
8 Soup du —
12 Ticklish Muppet
13 Texas tea
14 Doing
15 Cracker-jack
17 Blacken
18 Whatever amount
19 Spell-off
20 Restless
21 Protrude
22 Peculiar
23 Man of steel?
26 With one's head held high
30 Ancient mariner
31 Embrace
32 Not single-sex
33 Pipe type
35 Distorts
36 Burrowed
37 Bashful
38 Hollywood VIP
41 Pod dweller
42 Blue
45 Lotion additive
46 Legal reason to miss work
48 Go sightseeing
49 Bowling alley inits.
50 Ceremony
51 Locale
52 Cooking fuel
53 Rating unit

DOWN

1 "— Vu" (Warwick hit)
2 Actress Lena
3 TV trophy
4 Scepter
5 "Hay-stacks" painter
6 Staffer
7 Layer
8 Sarcastic "Oh, great!"
9 Oil cartel
10 The Beehive State
11 Golfer McIlroy
16 Border on
20 Altar promise
21 Caterpillar rival
22 Assoc.
23 GOP gp.
24 Tic-tac-toe win
25 Tavern
26 Tavern
27 Female hare
28 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace
29 QB's stats
31 Glutton
34 Young lion
35 Horse-drawn carriage
37 Feudal workers
38 "Memory" musical
39 Sci-fi race
40 Lummox
41 Cougar
42 Business attire
43 "— girl!"
44 Color worker
46 Binge
47 Hosp. workers

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	A	G		P	S	H	A	W		S	A	G
O	R	E		O	P	E	R	A		I	R	E
S	I	L	K	W	O	H	M	S		L	E	A
			I	W	O		O	H	D	E	A	R
H	E	S	I	O	N		R	E		N		
A	L	I		W	E	B		D	O	T	T	Y
M	I	L	K		D	I	S		N	C	A	A
M	A	L	I	A		N	E	W		A	M	P
			I	N	G	A		G	A	B	L	E	S
B	E	N	G	A	L		O	V	A			
A	V	E		S	I	L	V	E	R	A	D	O
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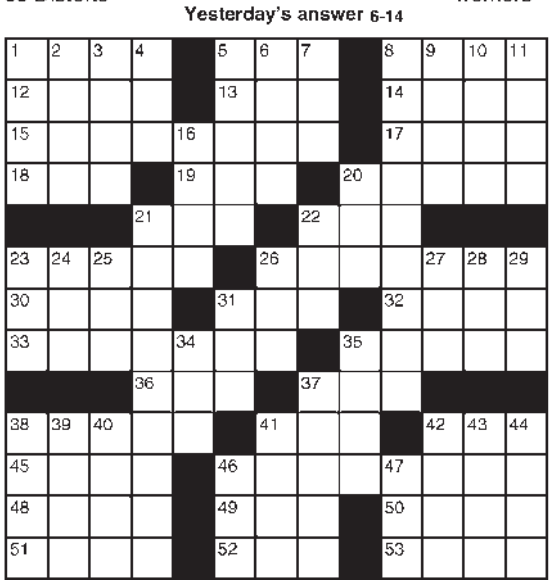
I	N	S		I	O	T	A	S		L	B	S

Yesterday's answer 6-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lucy Hale, 27; Kevin McHale, 28; Diablo Cody, 38; Boy George, 55.

Happy Birthday: Read between the lines. Not everyone will give you an honest answer this year. Use your intelligence to decipher what's true and what's false. Trust in your gut feelings, but don't make assumptions. Follow through, get to the bottom of any situations you face, and be prepared to make changes that will help you avoid situations that are detrimental to your advancement. Your numbers are 2, 12, 16, 24, 27, 35, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Use your imagination, pick a destination and plan a trip. Pay more attention to details, especially when it comes to your appearance. The changes you make will give you the motivation to start new projects. Romance will improve your outlook. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look at your options and get started. Focus on work and what it will take to finish what you start as well as the rewards you will get in return. Don't let a past mishap or relationship stand in your way. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Have some fun this year. Plan to get together with people you find entertaining and inspiring. Update your look or try to take better care of your health and well-being. Keep excess at bay. Romance doesn't have to be costly. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotions will surface quickly. Don't let little things get to you. Stick to creative endeavors and making use of your skills. Concentrate on physical pursuits that will help you stay in shape and encourage self-improvement. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen carefully and make note of what's expected of you. Challenges will allow you to show off and impress someone who can make a difference in your life. Offer suggestions and you will bring about valuable changes. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Easy does it. You don't always have to be first. In fact, it's better to take a conservative approach and let others take a risk. Any uncertainty should be your warning to be cautious, especially with regard to work and partnerships. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your involvement in conferences, educational pursuits or business trips will bring about positive changes. Express your true feelings and you will get the help you require to reach your destination. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your enthusiasm will put you in a vulnerable position. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you unless you are given full credit. An unusual turn of events should be anticipated. Keep your money and possessions under lock and key. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your plans simple and concise to avoid losing control. Sticking to your original plan and refraining from letting anyone interfere will help you avoid loss. Listen to the advice offered, but stick to what fits your budget. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for an opportunity to secure your position, finances or personal life. Don't give in to anyone who tries to manipulate you into a situation that can hurt your position or reputation. Do things differently than others do. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do what you can to boost your cash flow. Decide how to best allocate what you are going to spend on personal or family needs. Put cash aside for something that will bring you closer to the people you love most. Invest in your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep your plans to yourself. Trying to impress someone will backfire. Stick to your budget when it comes to household expenditures and paying for others. Work toward a plan that will position you for advancement. Don't give in to temptation. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, sensitive and helpful. You are lively, proactive and unpredictable. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		5		6		1	
9		7				8		3
	2						6	
6				3				1
			1	2	4			
3				9				4
	5						4	
2		9				6		5
	4		7		3		2	

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	7	3	5	4	6	1
1	3	7	8	6	4	9	5	2
5	4	6	1	2	9	8	7	3
3	7	9	6	1	2	5	8	4
6	8	4	5	7	3	1	2	9
2	5	1	9	4	8	6	3	7
4	6	3	2	8	1	7	9	5
7	2	5	4	9	6	3	1	8
9	1	8	3	5	7	2	4	6

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

RINGETTE — Solution: 9 letters

N	N	G	E	S	A	E	R	C	A	N	A	D	A	N
O	O	N	O	T	R	O	P	S	S	K	A	T	E	R
I	I	I	A	A	O	Y	R	R	A	C	S	D	S	E
T	T	K	S	D	L	C	B	U	Z	Z	E	R	P	T
A	C	C	N	S	R	K	E	B	D	W	N	E	A	S
L	E	I	E	T	Ⓔ	O	E	B	S	D	O	T	N	E
O	L	K	E	Ⓒ	O	S	N	E	E	T	Z	N	O	W
I	F	S	Ⓘ	E	A	I	S	R	P	U	I	E	L	O
V	E	S	D	R	A	W	R	O	F	E	Q	C	A	R
R	D	I	E	O	B	T	S	A	P	F	R	N	K	H
I	W	N	L	C	L	E	T	T	T	I	M	A	E	T
N	A	N	C	S	U	D	M	A	N	N	E	R	E	O
K	J	E	R	S	E	Y	Y	G	C	A	O	F	R	O
R	E	N	I	L	E	A	G	U	E	K	P	S	F	H
D	E	T	C	I	R	T	S	E	R	G	O	A	L	S

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Arena, Attack, Blue, Buzzer, Canada, Carry, Center, Circle, Crease, Deflection, Espanola, Forwards, France, Free, Goalkeeper, Goals, Gym, Ice, Indoor, Jersey, Kicking, League, Line, NORDA, Ontario, Pants, Possession, Quebec, Red, Reset, Restricted, Ring, Rink, Rubber, Score, Shoot, Skate, Sport, Stick, Sweden, Team, Throw, Violation, Western, Wide, Zones

Yesterday's Answer: Pelican

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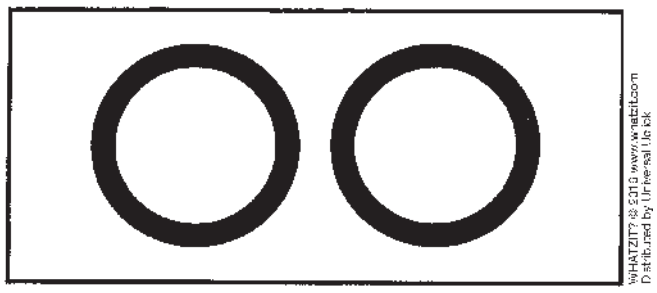

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Warriors look to close out Cavs without Green

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green, right, and Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, left, argue while being separated by Channing Frye (9) during the second half of Game 4 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland, Friday, June 10, 2016.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Steve Kerr could have used a little more notice on this one. A heads-up about Draymond Green's suspension sure would have been preferable and far more convenient for his planning purposes.

"It didn't happen, so whatever," Kerr said.

The NBA doesn't work that way, and Golden State was left to scramble Sunday figuring out a starting lineup and rotation without one of its most animated and high-energy stars on both ends of the floor as the Warriors try to wrap up another championship.

Whether or not Kerr is frustrated by Green's postseason behavior—he said he is more disappointed for Green not getting to play—there is little time to focus on that now. With the All-Star swingman sitting out Monday's Game 5 of the NBA Finals, it's up to the NBA Coach of the Year and his staff to figure out a way to close out the Cleveland Cavaliers for a second straight title without all of the contributions from Green that Golden State has relied on all along.

"We're going to come out aggressive and confident, just like we would if Draymond was playing," MVP Stephen Curry said. "We understand what we're playing for, and that's all that matters. So we hope to have a great night, take care of the details of the game. Individual guys step up and play pretty special and have special efforts and come out with a win."

Kerr's practice had already started Sunday when general manager Bob Myers called him with the news that Green would be out Game 5 with the suspension, and Kerr soon broke the news to Green and then the team.

In announcing the decision Sunday, the NBA said Green "made unnecessary contact with a retaliatory swipe of his hand to the groin" of LeBron James, who also received a technical retroactively for their tussle in the fourth quarter Friday.

"The pressure's back on them. We're not supposed to win tomorrow, not by anybody's picks," center Andrew Bogut said. "We like those situations. We like going into those games on our floor. We're going to try to wrap it up."

The Warriors have clinched their only two championships out West on the road, last year at Cleveland and in 1975 at Washington with a sweep of the Bullets. On Monday night, they could finish off James and the Cavaliers at home in roaring Oracle Arena.

This group had so much fun with a championship parade in downtown Oakland last June, Splash Brothers Curry and Klay Thompson and the rest of the Warriors would like nothing more than to celebrate at home and avoid another long flight to Northern Ohio.

Even if Green has to watch with the rest of the fans who can't get into the arena.

"It's disappointing, but I'm not going to let it get us down," Thompson said. "We had a next-man-up approach all year. Draymond, we know it's going to kill him not being there, but we're going to go out there and do it as a team and win for him. Go out there and try to make a statement on our home floor."

Top-seeded Golden State has ended each round this postseason in Oracle with confetti falling -- Houston and Portland in five games each then Oklahoma City in the decisive Game 7. During last year's run to the first title by the franchise in 40 years, the Warriors clinched only the Western Conference finals against the Rockets at home.

The Warriors realize, at least to some degree, Green pushed the limit with his style of play all postseason that teetered just on the edge of being too aggressive.

Until the league decided he took it too far this time.

"He brings a toughness to their team," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "He's the heart and soul of their team."

For Kerr, the dilemma is this: Green still must be on the active roster, meaning Golden State has one fewer player available. And this is a deep Warriors team that relies on everybody's contributions, often down to the end of the bench.

"We've used every single guy during the playoffs. They've all been important, and that's going to be a really difficult decision who is inactive," Kerr said. "Then as far as the game itself, we're going to play a lot of people and we'll give a lot of different looks and we'll compete like crazy, and I think we'll give ourselves a great chance to win."

The Warriors are well tested in recent weeks and months playing without key teammates, from Curry's trio of injuries this postseason -- ankle, knee and elbow -- to 2015 Finals MVP Andre Iguodala and even Kerr missing the 24-0 start of his team's record-setting, 73-win regular season.

"I'm proud of this team because we've been so great all year making adjustments, and this is just obviously a big adjustment we've got to make. But it's another challenge for us," Thompson said. "We're going to embrace it, and we're going to accomplish it."

With Green suspended, Cleveland must seize chance

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Draymond Green and LeBron James might make up, get over this moment and become friends again one day.

It's hard to envision that right now, given how these NBA Finals have become far less friendly by the day, more testy by the game, with Golden State's Green smack in the middle of much of the action.

Until now.

Suddenly, James and the Cleveland Cavaliers have their opening and perhaps a prime chance to get back into this best-of-seven series: with Green banned and outside the building altogether.

He will have to watch his Warriors try to close out a second straight championship with everybody else who can't get into sold-out Oracle Arena on Monday night. Green was suspended Sunday for his dustup with James in the fourth quarter of Friday's Game 4 win that drew a retroactive Flagrant-1 foul against Golden State's emotional leader. The NBA said Green "made unnecessary contact with a retaliatory swipe of his hand to the groin" of James, who was issued a retroactive technical for his role in the scuffle.

"I think we all know what's crossing the line no matter if you're playing basketball or if you're playing video games or we're playing catch or you're double-dutching it," James said. "We know what words cross the line, male or female. And ever since Draymond came into the league, I've been someone that he can always talk to and things of that nature. But he crossed the line last game. He felt like I crossed the line. We said what we had to say.

"So we're in a competitive series right now, and I think right now friendship is the last thing we're thinking about."

Steve Kerr and his Warriors coaching staff were working furiously Sunday to figure out what to do without Green, game-planning minus an All-Star swingman who does it all on defense, can bring the ball up court when necessary, is Golden State's top rebounder this postseason and a threat for a triple-double each time he steps on the floor - celebratory muscle-flexing and all. The Warriors lead the series 3-1.

Golden State won a record 73 games during the regular season after a record 24-0 start despite not having Kerr for the first 43 games as he recovered from complications following two back surgeries, missed Festus Ezeli and Andre Iguodala for stretches and made it this deep in the playoffs with Curry sidelined during the early rounds because of ankle and knee injuries.

Several Warriors spoke Sunday of winning for Green, whose postseason 15.3 points, team-high 9.6 rebounds and six assists will be greatly missed along with all the other intangibles like his hustle plays, encouraging words and high-flying chest bumps. He only missed one game all regular season, a 112-110 defeat at Denver on Jan. 13 and one of only nine losses.

The Cavs know they must capitalize and send the series back to Cleveland for a Game 6.

Coach Tyronn Lue's message is a simple one:

"I told the guys when we left, we have to come back to Cleveland anyway," he said, "so why not come back and play a game?"

Even Cleveland understands how much Green means to the other side and the magnitude of his absence.

"He's one of those players that does whatever it takes for his team to win. He plays aggressive," Kevin Love said. "Sometimes players, your actions or emotions get the best of you. ... You've seen guys suspended. You've seen guys with technicals, flagrants. That's just the way it is. Playoff basketball is a lot more physical."

Emotional, too, so it seems.

Whatever Green uttered late in the fourth quarter Friday in that back and forth, James said, "I felt like at that point in time, it was a little bit outside of basketball."

Klay Thompson might also have fallen down LeBron's likable list Sunday.

"People have feelings and people's feelings get hurt even if they're called a bad word. I guess his feelings just got hurt," Thompson said. "We've all been called plenty of bad words on the basketball court before. Some guys just react to it differently. All I can say for myself individually, I just try to ignore it or just let it fuel the fire, but I don't carry it with me when the job is done."

Hamels reaches 2,000 Ks as Rangers beat Mariners

SEATTLE (AP)—Cole Hamels became the seventh active pitcher to reach 2,000 strikeouts and Mitch Moreland homered to lead the Texas Rangers past the Seattle Mariners 6-4 on Sunday.

The AL West-leading Rangers took two out of three games in the series against second-place Seattle to open up a season-high five-game division lead. The Rangers have won seven straight series and 12 of their last 15 games.

Hamels (6-1) picked up strikeout No. 2,000 in the third inning when he got Leonys Martin swinging. It was one of five strikeouts for Hamels, who allowed one run on four hits in seven innings.

Martin homered for the Mariners, who have now lost eight of their last 12 games. Seattle starter Wade Miley (6-3) allowed three runs on four hits in five innings and picked up his first loss since April 19. Miley had won his last six decisions.

Indians 8, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Francisco Lindor homered and drove in three runs in the first two innings, and the Cleveland Indians pounded another David Huff in a victory over Los Angeles.

Carlos Santana hit two homers and drove in three more runs for the AL Central leaders, who took two of three at the Big A.

Giants 2, Dodgers 1

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt hit a two-run homer off rookie Julio Urias in the sixth inning to help Jake Peavy earn his 150th win when San Francisco beat Los Angeles.

Belt struck out in his first two plate appearances against the 19-year-old Urias (0-2) before homering into the right-center stands. Joe Panik singled ahead of Belt's home run.

Blue Jays 10, Orioles 9

In Toronto, Russell Martin hit a three-run homer, Kevin Pillar had a solo shot and the Toronto Blue Jays used a five-run first inning to beat the Baltimore Orioles.

Ubaldo Jimenez (3-7) allowed five runs and six hits in one-third of an inning, the shortest start of his career.

Tigers 4, Yankees 1

In New York, Detroit rookie Michael Fulmer dominated on Old-Timers' Day at Yankee Stadium, winning his fifth straight start while extending his scoreless streak to 28 1/3 innings to lead the Tigers over New York.

Fulmer (7-1) blanked the Yankees on two hits for six innings and left with a 2.52 ERA. He's won six consecutive decisions overall .

Nationals 5, Phillies 4

In Washington, Jayson Werth hit a two-out, two-run single in the ninth inning, helping the Washington Nationals rally past the Philadelphia Phillies for a three-game sweep.

The Nationals (39-24) improved to a season-best 15 games over .500. The Phillies (29-34) fell to a season-high five games under .500 and have lost 17 of their last 22.

Rays 5, Astros 0

In St. Petersburg, reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel became the first major league pitcher to lose nine games this season when Matt Moore pitched two-hit ball over seven innings to lead the Tampa Bay Rays over the Houston Astros.

After going 20-8 with a 2.48 ERA last season, Keuchel (3-9) has a 5.54 ERA this year.

Athletics 6, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Marcus Semien and Jake Smolinski each hit a two-run homer in Oakland's four-run second inning, and the Athletics snapped their seven-game losing streak.

Danny Valencia added a solo homer and Billy Butler had three hits— one short of his combined total in eight previous June games—as Oakland also ended a nine-game road losing streak.

Cubs 13, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Jon Lester earned his fourth straight victory after allowing no earned runs in seven innings as the Chicago Cubs beat the Atlanta Braves to win their final series at Turner Field.

Lester (8-3) has allowed only one earned run with no walks in three wins this month, lowering his ERA to 1.89.

Brewers 5, Mets 3

In Milwaukee, Zach Davies tossed six-plus strong innings of three-hit ball before the Milwaukee Brewers held on against the mistake-prone New York Mets, who played without ill manager Terry Collins.

He was seen by a trainer and Brewers team doctor after feeling sick before the game.

Royals 3, White Sox 1

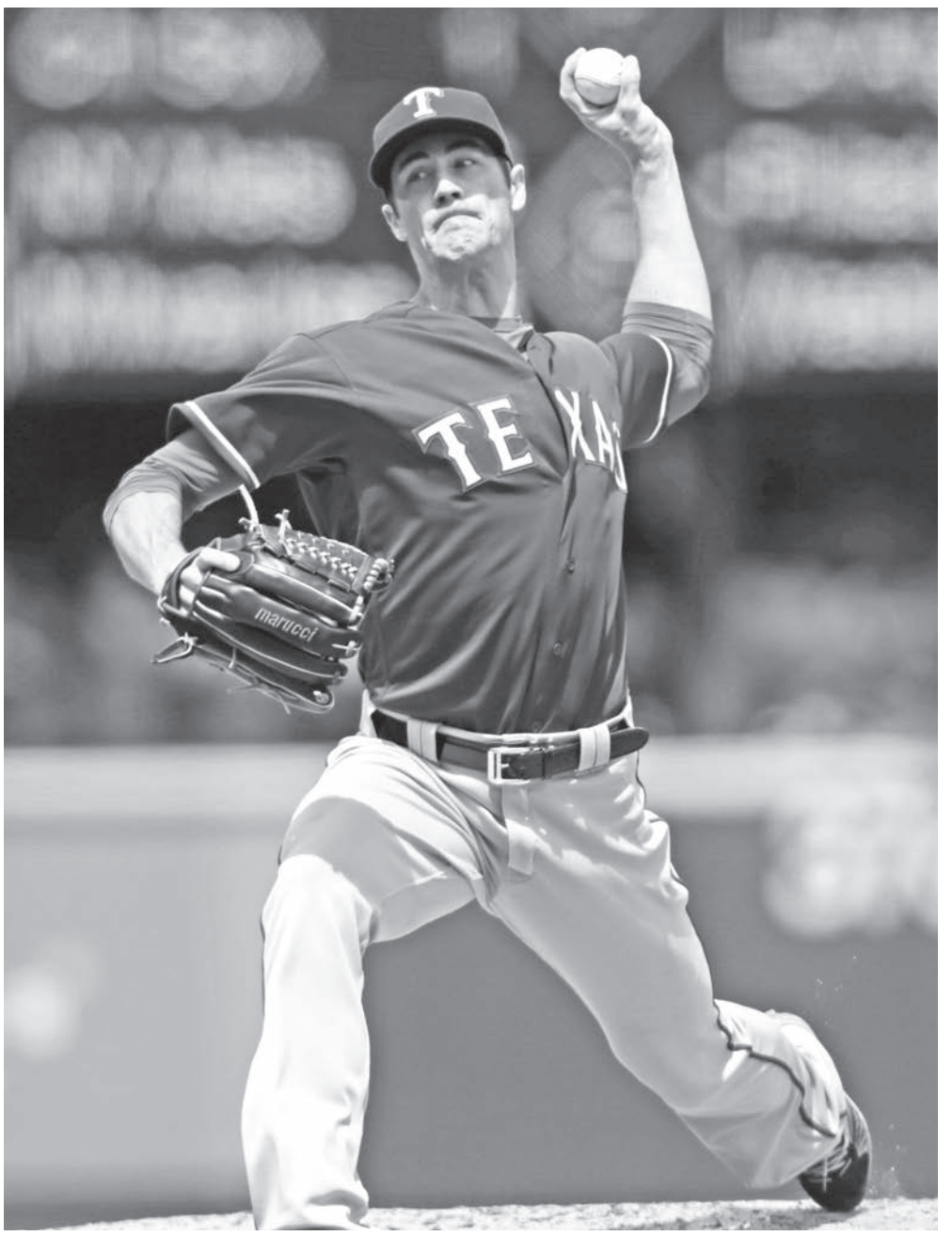
In Chicago, Yordano Ventura pitched seven sharp innings for Kansas City in his first start since he brawled with Manny Machado in Baltimore, and the Royals beat the Chicago White Sox for their second straight win following an eight-game losing streak.

Ventura (5-4) struck out a season-high 10 and walked one in his first win since May 17 against Boston.

Twins 7, Red Sox 4, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Max Kepler's first major league homer was a three-run shot in the bottom of the 10th inning that gave the Minnesota Twins a victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Joe Mauer drew a leadoff walk in the 10th from Matt Barnes (2-3) and was sacrificed to second by Trevor Plouffe.



AP

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Cole Hamels works against the Seattle Mariners during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 12, 2016, in Seattle.

Diamondbacks 6, Marlins 0

In Phoenix, Robbie Ray threw seven-plus scoreless innings and Peter O'Brien homered to help the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Miami Marlins.

Paul Goldschmidt doubled, singled, scored twice and drove in a run for the Diamondbacks, who won the final two games of the three-game series.

Rockies 2, Padres 1

In Denver, Tyler Anderson pitched into the seventh inning in his impressive major league debut, Mark Reynolds homered and the Colorado Rockies beat the San Diego Padres.

San Diego starter Christian Friedrich struck out a season-high nine and allowed only two hits and an unearned run against his former team.

Cardinals 8, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Matt Holliday and Randal Grichuk homered, and the surging St. Louis Cardinals completed a three-game sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Mike Leake reverted back to his mastery of Pittsburgh with seven effective innings for the Cardinals, who have won five straight games and seven of eight.

Berger confident heading to US Open after 1st PGA title

AP Sports WriterMEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Nobody has won a PGA Tour event and followed up by winning the U.S. Open the next week. Daniel Berger is confident enough in how he's playing to believe he can make a little history.

Berger, the 2014-15 rookie of the year, won his first PGA title Sunday in his 50th event, and the 23-year-old Floridian held off Phil Mickelson, Steve Stricker and Brooks Koepka by three strokes to finally hoist a trophy.

He's driving the ball down the middle of the fairway and has his putter working very well as he heads to Oakmont.

"When I played in the Masters for the first time, I think I finished 10th, five shots behind and didn't really play that great," Berger said Sunday night. "So, you know if I can go in there next week and play good, then obviously I have what it takes to get the W."

Only 11 have ever won a major after winning on tour, and Rory McIlroy was the last when he won the PGA Championship the week after taking the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational in 2014.

Mickelson certainly tried to chase down Berger after needling the man half his age during a three-hour delay for thunderstorms about having won rookie of the year without winning a tournament. Mickelson rolled in a long, beautiful birdie putt of 44 feet on No. 12 except Berger answered with three birdies over four holes on the back nine to clinch the victory.

"I just couldn't quite catch him, but I'm coming out of this week with a lot of positives and some good momentum," Mickelson said before heading to Oakmont.

Berger finished at 13-under 267. He became the 13th first-time winner on tour this season and took home the winner's check of $1.1 million in the 50th start of his career. He also became the fourth first-time winner at this event in the past six years and 10th overall in Memphis.

"To do that with so many great players, Hall of Famers behind me, it's something that I'll never forget and I just love the way I hung in there and was able to get it done," Berger said.

Mickelson and Stricker shot 67, and Koepka had a 66. Dustin Johnson had a 63, setting the back-nine record with a 29, to finish fifth at 9 under.

The thunderstorms slowed down the confident Berger, and only for a hole. He had hit only hit three shots when the horn sounded. Play finally resumed at 4 p.m., and Berger resumed by two-putting from 10 feet on No. 1 for bogey.

Berger already had finished second twice with a total of nine top 10s in his young career. He shook off the bogey by stringing together four straight pars with Koepka catching him atop the leaderboard at 9 under before bogeying No. 8.

He birdied Nos. 6 and 11 to make the turn at 11 under.

He stumbled on No. 10, two-putting from 10 feet again for bogey. Mickelson went to 9 under with two birdies on his first three holes on the back nine. Then, Mickelson's putter failed him as he just missed from 11 feet on No. 13 and 17 feet on No. 14 chasing his first win since the 2013 British Open.

Berger had no such issues as he rolled in putts of 8 feet on No. 12, the 32-footer on No. 14 - the same hole he put his tee shot into the water Saturday and double bogeyed—and a 22-footer on No. 15. That proved more than enough of a margin as Mickelson birdied the par-5 16th.

"It almost feels like U.S. Open came a week early to finish another second place," Mickelson said. "I'm excited to take the momentum that I built here in Memphis on a golf course I really enjoy and take it over to Oakmont and see if I can capture my first Open."

Klinsmann hopes US mentality changes in KO stage

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jurgen Klinsmann wants a transformed mentality when the United States opens the knockout phase of the Copa America against Ecuador on Thursday.

"The whole old story is the underdog story, and I cannot hear that story anymore," the U.S. coach said. "I want to see them risk things. Let's go for it. Because if you're not going for it, sooner or later they're going to break you down."

After beating Paraguay 1-0 on Saturday night despite playing nearly the entire second half a man down, the U.S. won Group A on goal difference over Colombia and advanced to a quarterfinal in Seattle. The Americans defeated Ecuador 1-0 in a May 25 exhibition on Darlington Nagbe's 90th-minute goal.

The Americans still can be timid at times against soccer powers. Although they have won exhibitions at Italy, Germany and the Netherlands in recent years, they struggled to maintain possession. And when the U.S. played Belgium in the second round of the 2014 World Cup, the Americans extended the game to extra time only because of goalkeeper Tim Howard's outstanding play.

AP

United States manager Jurgen Klinsmann watches during a Copa America Centenario group A soccer match against Costa Rica at Soldier Field in Chicago, Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

Klinsmann won the 1990 World Cup with West Germany and the 1996 European Championship with Germany, spending 15 years with high-level clubs.

"Knockout stage is very mental driven," he said. "It's when you step on the field and you see certain jerseys, it's kind of sniffing at each other and saying: `I'm ready for you."

Aside from the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the Americans' only knockout stage wins in competitive events have been over Mexico in the second round of the 2002 World Cup, against Spain in the semifinals of the 2009 Confederations Cup and over Mexico on penalty kicks in the 1995 Copa America quarterfinals.

They've lost World Cup knockout games against Brazil (1994), Germany (2002), Ghana (2010) and Belgium (2014), plus Confederations Cup semifinals versus Saudi Arabia (1992) and Mexico (1999) and a Copa America semifinal against Brazil (1995).

In the 2009 Confederations Cup final, they wasted a two-goal lead in a 3-2 loss to Brazil. (They're also 1-2 in Confederations Cup third-place matches.)

"What we would love to see is just that they become more confident and courageous to take the game to those big teams and not playing just counter break football," Klinsmann said.

For the first time since the 1930 World Cup and only the second time ever, the U.S. has started the same 11 players in three consecutive games. That streak will end because right back DeAndre Yedlin is suspended after receiving two yellow cards in a 57-second span against Paraguay starting in the 47th minute.

Yedlin said through the U.S. Soccer Federation on Sunday that the first infraction came on what he thought was "a fair 50-50 tackle" and he was very surprised to receive the yellow card.

June 15 early bird deadline for HANMI Classic

To ensure their slots, golfers are encouraged to register early for the 15th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament that will be held this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The early bird registration deadline is tomorrow at 3pm.

"For the last several years, we have maxed out registration, so we are urging interested golfers to take advantage of the reduced early bird registration fee and guarantee their slots in this great tournament," said tournament chairman Paul Park.

Participants in the weekend competition can win hole-in-one prizes, including $20,000 from Century Tours, a 2016 Toyota Yaris Hatchback from AK Toyota, $10,000 from Pacifica Insurance, a 2016 Mazda 3 from Triple J Motors, a round-trip airline ticket to anywhere Asiana Airlines flies, $10,000 one-year personal accident insurance coverage from Century Insurance, two airline tickets from Philippine Airlines, an airline ticket from Delta Air Lines, Chivas Regal from Titan Imports and Samcorp Imports, and a Samsung S7 from IT&E. Numerous other prizes including hotel stays and other gift certificates will be raffled off at the event awards banquet.

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.saipan-hotels.org, and are also available at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Mariana Country Club, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Early bird tournament fee is $110. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $130 after the early bird deadline.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, right, presents a $1,000 donation to Saipan Cares for Animals last month. Pictured from left are Saipan Cares for Animals president Elizabeth Pliscou, vice president Nicole Essa, secretary Krisna Balolong, and volunteer Cayden Wolf, and Cavanagh. The 15th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament that is scheduled for this Saturday will help raise funds for HANMI charitable donations over the next year.

SAIPAN

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players who had an outstanding showing in the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball. Vincent Nakamura of the champions Comets leads the roster, which also includes Reid Teregeyo, Alexiana Tyquiengco, Delbert Sablan, Ken Kaipat, Tristan Norita, Kyle Kapileo, Joven Reyes, Justin Agulto, Nathan Aizon, Heath Camacho, Eliray Castro, Patrick Celis, and Alvin Hocog. Completing the squad and joining Maratita on the officials list are head coach George Camacho and his assistant Cal Deleon Guerrero.

Meanwhile, with neither Tinian nor Rota fielding teams in the Junior, Big, and Senior league divisions, Saipan's selections were automatically given the chance to represent the CNMI in the ASPAC.

The regional tournament for Junior League will take place in Taiwan with the CNMI Junior All-Stars to be managed by Manny Evangelista, who guided the Falcons to the division championship in the SLLB against the Kagman Enforcers.

In the Senior League, the Commonwealth players, who will be managed by Lawrence Camacho, will go to the Philippines for the ASPAC.

In the Big League, the Jonathan Tenorio-managed CNMI crew will head to Nanjing, China. Competition will run from July 5 to 10 at the Dongshan Foreign Language School Ballpark with the CNMI Big League All-Stars battling teams from the host, Chinese-Taipei, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Guam.

CNMI

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an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"We have a lot of entries this year because we are hosting the tournament. We are able to let our lower-ranked players compete and this is a good experience for them because they are able to challenge players outside Saipan," Race added.

In the girls U12 Group A, the top-ranked Coume Kaga eased past Palau's Silmai Ngeelittle, 6-0, 6-0, while Anika Camacho and Marielle Lopez split their first two games. Camacho lost to Lopez, 5-7, 2-6, and was awarded a walkover win against fellow CNMI bet Katie Choi. Lopez earlier dropped a three-setter against the third-ranked Paris Panuelo of FSM, 6-4, 4-6, 6-10.

In the CNMI-dominated boys U14 singles, the Top 2 seeds Robbie Schorr and Tony Kim waltzed past their respective first round opponents. Schorr defeated CNMI teammate Sean Lee, 6-1, 6-1, while Kim clobbered Guam's Roman Merletti, 6-0, 6-0.

Ken Song is also in the boys U14 singles contest and went 2-0 in the opening day, while Sam Ryu earned a 1-1 mark. Song first prevailed against compatriot Eune Park, 6-0, 6-0, and got another shutout win over Merletti. Ryu, earlier lost to Sean Lee, 1-6, 0-6, but bounced back with a 4-6, 6-4, 10-8 victory against Park.

In the girls U14 Group A pairing, No. 1 seed Malika Miyawaki won the all-CNMI match opposite Maria Gregoire, 6-3, 6-2. In Group B, second and third-ranked Conatsu Kaga and Asia Raulerson won over FSM's Isabel Garcia, 7-5, 6-0, and the CNMI's Riko Ojima, 6-0, 6-0, respectively.

In the boys U16 singles, Steven Goodwin swept FSM's Sarkau Weston Luckymis, 6-3, 7-5, in their Group A tiff, while Vincent Tudela ruled another CNMI vs CNMI game in Group D after blanking Allan Seo, 6-0, 6-0.

In the girls U16 singles, the unseeded Grace Choi needed only two sets to beat Guam's Victoria Smith in their Group A match, 6-4, 6-1, while the second-ranked Mimi Sakano also won via straight sets opposite another Guam bet Anika Sachdev, 6-2, 6-2.

Meanwhile, the doubles competition will start today, while pool play matches in the singles event in some age groups will continue today.

Players competing in the regional tournament are battling for slots on the North Pacific Team besides the championships in the various age groups. Players who will make the grade will be able to play in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

LEE

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Kokomi Koyama yesterday.

The 14-year-old Lee is also the remaining CNMI player in the main draw after her teammates Isabel Heras and Tania Tan dropped their respective opening matches yesterday. Tan fell to Tahiti's Naia Guitton, 1-6, 1-6, while Heras absorbed a tough three-set loss at the hands of Japan's Hiromi Sekiguchi. The Japanese won the first set, 6-1, but Heras came back in the second, 6-3, to force a deciding third set, which Sekiguchi took, 6-0

Heras, Tan, and Lee are in New Caledonia as members of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team. Guitton is also part of the elite squad, along with Palau's Ayana Rengiil, and the Solomon Islands' Georjemah Row. Rengiil and Row joined Guitton and Lee to the second round after prevailing in separate matches yesterday. The fourth-ranked Rengiil was pitted against Australia's Sophie Fry and won in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2. The Palau bet will next face Sekiguchi. Row also took the short route to the second round after sweeping Japan's Nanari Katsumi, 6-3, 6-0.

Meanwhile, the doubles competition will start today will Lee teaming up with Rengiil anew and the two players earning the No. 2 rankings in the main draw. Lee and Rengiil will be dueling the winner of the morning match between Australia's Ivy Mclean and Holly Stewart and Singapore's Julia Daiya Barden and Ashley Kei Yim at the lower half of the draw.

At the upper half, the duo of Tan and Heras will challenge Australia's Luciana Kunkel and Mia Katharina. The other Pacific Oceania Touring Team pair—Row and Guitton—will collide against the hosts' Nikita Bouttier and Lysiane Moto-Nekiriai.

The tournament in New Caledonia is just one of the series of ranking events that Lee and company will be competing this summer. After completing the contest in New Caledonia, the Pacific Oceania Touring Team will return to Fiji for two more events.

2016 President's Cup/Clean-up Drive

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, left, is joined by representatives of Tan Holdings Football Club, Kanoa, Shirley's, MP United, and Matansa for a group photo after he gave incentives to the clubs that participated in last month's 2016 President's Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The event also doubled as a clean-up drive at the sports facility.

Local football clubs and their officials wait for the start of the 2016 President's Cup.

Shirley's FC players pick up trash near the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

MP United FC players head back to the track oval after picking up trash around the Oleai Sports Complex fence.

Kanoa, left, and MP United players battle for the ball.

Matansa players join the clean-up drive.

Kanoa FC players pose for a photo before they pick up trash at the track and field facility.

A Tan Holdings defender, second right, keeps an eye on a Matansa player.

An MP United FC player, left, dribbles in front of a Matansa defender.

Warriors look to close out Cavs without Green

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Hamels reaches 2,000 Ks as Rangers beat Mariners

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CNMI players deliver in opener

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Rintaro Miyawaki returns to Guam's Dakota Gibson during their opening game in the boys U12 singles event in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seeded CNMI players in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships lived up to expectations early after winning their opening matches yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club and Kanoa Resort courts.

In the boys U12 division, the third-ranked Ji Min Woo swept Palau's Jonah Ziegler, 6-2, 6-1, in their Group C pool play. In Group D, the fourth-seeded Seung Jin Paik also needed only two sets to beat the Federated States of Micronesia's Kiko Rush Apis, 6-2, 6-0. In Group B, the unseeded Rintaro Miyawaki got a pair of wins—a walkover against fellow CNMI player Min Gi Jung and an impressive 0-6, 6-4, 10-7 triumph over Guam's Dakota Gibson. In Pool A, Richard Steele outclassed FSM's Deavyn Etscheit, 6-4, 6-4.

"So far so good. The players I expected to win won. There were many short matches. No upset in the opening day and I hope we can keep this momentum in the coming days," CNMI coach Jeff Race said in

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Lee seeded second in New Caledonia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee drew a bye in the opening round of the Open Junior BNP PARIBAS de Nouvelle-Caledonie in Noumea, New Caledonia after getting the No. 2 seeding in the girls U18 singles main draw.

Lee is at the bottom half of the draw and will play her first game in the ITF Juniors ranking event today when she faces Australia's Chiara Di Tommaso, who advanced to the second round following a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Japan's

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee will play her first game in the Open Junior BNP PARIBAS de Nouvelle-Caledonie in Noumea, New Caledonia today.

Saipan sweeps Rota in district tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Little League All-Stars shut down Rota in the 2016 CNMI District Tournament held over the weekend on Tinian to earn the right to represent the Commonwealth to the regional competition.

The John Maratita-managed squad faced a tough stance from Rota in the opening game before pulling off a 3-2 win and then cruised to victories in Game 2, 6-0, and Game 3, 16-6, for the sweep and a ticket to the 2016 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament.

The Little League ASPAC will be held in Seoul, South Korea from June 23 to July 2 with the Saipan bets, who will now be known as the CNMI Little League All-Stars, up against qualifiers from the host, Guam, Chinese-Taipei, the Philippines, Indonesia, China, and New Zealand.

The CNMI Little League All-Stars are composed of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Delbert Sablan, seen here pitching for the Little Legals, suited up for the Saipan Little League All-Stars, who swept Rota in the 2016 CNMI District Tournament held on Tinian over the weekend.